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OUT-FOXED



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Australia topple Olympic Champions Nigeria and now seek Pyramid to Success

By John Economos

AUSTRALIA's most exciting Olympic team, following their magnificent 1-0 demolition last Sunday night over current Olympic champions Nigeria, is hungrily primed to clash with Egypt tomorrow night (Wednesday) in phase 2 of the 'Four Nations Tournament' at the Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide.

Egypt however will be severely handicapped by being minus their driving captain and central defender, Aymin Ramadan, who was red-carded last Sunday by referee Brett Hugo just eight minutes from time against the tough and mobile South Koreans who have already qualified for the 2000 Olympics.

Australia's electrifying display last Sunday, not only rocked the giant Nigerians, but highly excited the crowd that should have been treble the almost 6,000 in attendance.

The battle continues tomorrow night in Adelaide against Egypt as the Australian Olympic squad forges onwards to climb the pyramid to success.

Australia's ruthless performance against Nigeria must surely entice and drive a much larger roll up tomorrow night to the Hindmarsh Stadium for Australia's battle against Egypt.

In victory against Nigeria, Australia was magnificently and superbly inspired by the incredibly talented, lanky and red haired sweeper, Hayden Foxe, plus the fiery left winger Nick Rizzo.

Foxe lived up to his name with his magnificent and well timed cover-defending, not to mention his cunning

raids with utmost deathly stealth.

One such raid just before the break, Foxe suddenly appeared on the left wing and headed a fabulous square ball into the Nigerian box to engineer Australia's 'killer goal' scored by Manchester City's marksman, Daniel Allsopp.

The fiery Rizzo with excellent wizardry and ball control plus huge bravery, blazed right into the giant Nigerian defenders from the left wing, whilst twin central markers, West Ham's Chris Coyne and now the Parramatta Power's Stephen Laybutt, tightly choked Nigeria's strike-force.

Raul Blanco, the Australian Olympic coach, blatantly refused to get carried away with his team's fabulous 'knock out' over the current world champions.

"Yes, I was happy, but mind you we can improve a lot more."

"We have many quality players waiting on the sidelines just waiting to grab their chance to prove what they can do."



Raul Blanco: Not getting carried away.

"Against the Nigerians, we in reality, squandered many more scoring chances inside the last 30 metres."

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PARRAMATTA POWER COLOUR POSTER

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WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

GAME 1

SOUTHS PUSH VASCO

**South Melbourne 0
Vasco da Gama 2**

Brazil's Vasco da Gama struggled to a 2-0 win over rank outsiders South Melbourne in the world club championship last week.

A long-range drive by mid-fielder Felipe early in the second half broke the stubborn resistance of the Australians, rated by a London bookmaker as 500-1 longshots to take the title.

Felipe sent a left-foot shot screeching into the top corner from 30 metres in the 53rd minute, just as the 60,000 odd home fans were beginning to get restless.

Edmundo added the second in the 86th minute in style, latching onto a long pass, chesting the ball down and scoring from a sharp angle.

Edmundo's goal came two minutes after Steve Panopoulos had missed South

Melbourne's only real chance, heading over the crossbar after a throw in was deflected into his path.

Vasco, whose team contains seven players with international experience for Brazil, had expected to do far better against their unrated opponents.

But the team, which included three players making their competitive debuts for the club, was often disjointed.

In particular, the much feared Romario-Edmundo strikeforce never got into gear.

The pair, who are known to be not on the best of terms, barely exchanged a pass, except for one move where Edmundo backheeled the ball into the path of Romario, who blasted his effort over the crossbar.

The pair then brought the biggest cheer of the night as they slapped each other's hands, though without exchanging a glance.



Souths skipper Paul Trimboli challenges Edmundo.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Chris Jones, Steve Iosifidis, Nick Orlic, Con Blatsis, David Clarkson, Steve Panopoulos, Paul trimboli (c) (Anastasiadis 80), Michael Curcija (Coveney 74), Goran Lozanovski, Robert Liparoti.

CAUTIONS: N Orlic (SM) 29', G Lozanovski (SM) 40', S Panopoulos (SM) 50', Ramon (VDG) 64', Edmundo (VDG) 86'.

RED CARDS: Nil

REFEREE: Jol Dick

CROWD: 66,000

GAME 2

SOUTHS UNLUCKY AGAINST NECAXA

**South Melbourne 1
Necaxa 3**

Outside Necaxa kept up their chances of reaching the world club championship final by beating minnows South Melbourne 3-1 last week.

The Mexicans, who have to beat hosts Vasco da Gama to top group B and reach the final, were awarded three penalties in the match, converting two and missing one.

The game was played in a deserted Maracana stadium.

Nearly all the 70,000 fans who had watched the previous clash between home side Vasco da Gama and Manchester United left between the games, belying Brazil's reputation for being soc-

cer mad.

Chilean striker Cristian Montecinos opened the scoring with the first penalty after 19 minutes, then had a second penalty saved by goalkeeper Chris Jones four minutes later.

Ecudaoan Agustin Delgado increased Necaxa's lead in the 28th minute, but South Melbourne pulled a goal back through John Anastasiadis — their first of the tournament — on the stroke of halftime.

South Melbourne, who have lost both their games in the tournament, came close to equalising early in the second half before Necaxa sealed the points in the 76th minute when Salvador Cabrera converted another penalty.

"It was a bit of a funny feeling," South Melbourne coach Ange



Con Blatsis: Push and shove against Mexico's Necaxa.

Postecoglou said of the mass exodus of fans. "You're in this huge arena, you walk out and the silence really hits you."

Postecoglou said he was pleased with his side's display and in particular the goal. "We're probably the first Australian side to score at the Maracana so that's something special for us," he said.

Necaxa, who had been expected to play second fiddle to hosts

Vasco da Gama and European champions United, have four points, two less than Vasco.

They were clearly the more gifted team but South Melbourne, who had frustrated Vasco earlier in the tournament before losing 2-0, made the most of their more limited talents and could well have snatched a draw.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Chris Jones, Steve Iosifidis, Fausto De Amics, Nick Orlic, Con Blatsis, David Clarkson, Steve Panopoulos (Curcija 65), Vaughan Coveney (Goutzioulis 65), Paul Trimboli (c) (Tsekis 78), John anastasiadis, Richie Alagich.

CAUTIONS: S. Iosifidis (SM) 40', N Orlic (SM) 76', H Vigna (N) 81'

RED CARD: Nil

REFEREE: Falla Nidoye

CROWD: 5,000

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

FORMER Adelaide Sharks' Corey Artone and Brad Armour are both expected to report tonight (Tuesday) at the Melbourne Knights for trials.

The Knights also expect the arrival of a top player from Croatia Zagreb in the near future.

LAST SUNDAY night at Adelaide's glorious new and vastly remodelled Hindmarsh Stadium, the current Olympic champions Nigeria, stunned the crowd with their most unorthodox pre-match warm up.

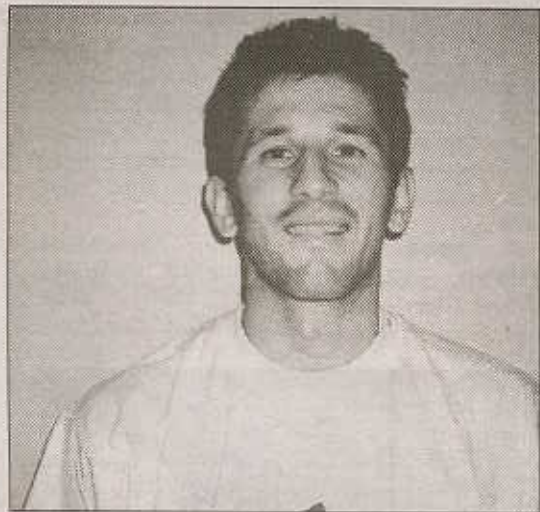
The giant black athletes did their callisthenics and various other stretching exercises with precise rhythm, perfectly synchronised to the loud and blaring INXS tune of 'What You Need' that came blasting out over the Stadium's loudspeakers. Such 'musical warm-ups' have not been seen in Australia since the Brazilians did them in a training session during the 1988 Gold Cup.

The massive remodelling of Adelaide's HINDMARSH STADIUM is reported to have cost no less than \$30 million. This project was largely instigated by Liberal

M.P. Ms Joan Hall, a Soccer fan and supporter of Adelaide City.

Former World Cup Milan Ivanovic, last week was given a very pleasant and most emotional surprise of his life at a secret dinner held in his honour.

The entire Australian Olympic Soccer squad, currently in Adelaide for the 'Four Nations tournament', very privately arranged a secret dinner for the great Milan at a mouth watering Italian restaurant.



Milan Ivanovic: Australia's magnificent sweeper.

Milan, thinking he was being taken just for a cup of coffee by a couple of Soccer coaches, was led upstairs inside the restaurant where the entire Olympic team were waiting to give the great international libero a heroic and boisterous salute. As well, the entire squad chipped in to buy Milan and present to him, a magnificent and expensive gold watch.

The 'secret organiser' stated to 'Good Oil': All the players wanted to do was to say a 'Big Thank You' to Milan for what he had done over the years



whilst playing for the Australian Team.

LAST Sunday night after Australia's Olympic team totally outclassed the current Olympic champions Nigeria, the former World Cup captain Alex Tobin was invited to dinner with the Olympic players back at their plush five star hotel, the STAMFORD PLAZA ADELAIDE.

THE powerful flood-lighting installed at the new Hindmarsh Stadium, has just one third of the number of the huge old globes, but the new high-tech ones have the capacity and power to beam out triple the strength of light.

With a perfectly manicured surface, the Hindmarsh Stadium is a certainty to overwhelm all visiting Soccer players next September during the 2000

Olympics.

An Australian Olympic player when he stepped onto the magnificent pitch for the very first time sarcastically questioned 'Good Oil': 'Every when do they vacuum the grass?'

AN EAR-PIERCING fire alarm cracked the atmosphere last Sunday night at the Hindmarsh Stadium,



Alex Tobin: Former World Cup captain.

about 10 minutes into the second half of the clash between Australia's Olympic team and current World Olympic Champions Nigeria.

The cacophony blasting out of a screaming hooter high on top of a tower, was sustained for no less than

12.5, what seemed very long minutes, much to the annoyance and mirth of the Adelaide Soccer crowd.

The alarm although proved to be false, no Stadium attendant was

authorised to switch it off until two local fire trucks arrived to do the good deed, much to the urgently needed relief, pleasure and loud applauding by the now grateful crowd.



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Brendan Renaud

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Eddie Krncevic head coach

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 I authorise the coaches and staff of Club Marconi to act for me, according to their best judgement, in any emergency requiring medical attention. I further release Club Marconi and staff from any and all liability for injury or illness incurred at the coaching clinic.
 PARENT/GUARDIAN (Signature) Date:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES: Telephone 9823 2222 or ... E-Mail: football@marconifc.com

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

WHO'S the highly energised NSL midfielder that has his disciplinarian coach totally frustrated and tearing out his hair because of this valuable player's most unacceptable bad attitude?

"I just don't know what he wants from his life. As far as my team is concerned, and although he is very talented, we hardly see him. He's either suspended, injured, or just simply away from the training pitch."

●●●●

AUSTRALIA's Olympic Games defender Steve Laybutt, has returned to the Parramatta Power following his three month loan period to Japan's J-League side Bellmare Hiratsuka.



Steve Laybutt: Makes debut for the Power on Saturday week.

The powerful defender is currently in Adelaide with Raul Blanco's Olympic squad participating in the 'Four Nations Tournament'.

Laybutt was originally signed with the Power from the Brisbane Strikers prior to his departure to Japan.

It's anticipated that Laybutt will make his debut for the Power on Saturday 22nd January against the Gippsland Falcons.

The Power had advised the NSL its Round 15 away game against Marconi scheduled for last Sunday, had been postponed due to three players being on national duty.

The Power's Round 16 match against the Auckland Kingz has also been postponed as the Kingz have at least seven of their squad players on national duty in a Tournament that weekend.

●●●●

MORE AMENDMENTS TO NSL fixtures.

For Round 19, there are two changes.

The match, Carlton vs Sydney Olympic, will be played at Olympic Park on Saturday, January 29 at 7.00pm.

The match between Adelaide City and the Marconi Stallions at Hindmarsh Stadium will now be played on Sunday January 30 at 8.00pm.

In Round 21 and in the



Alex Tobin: Adelaide City's sterling captain.

clash the Parramatta Power vs Adelaide City, it will be played on Saturday February 12th at the Parramatta Stadium.

●●●●

LUKE CASSERLY, the Northern Spirit's industrious right wingback or central marker, last Friday night played his 150th match in the NSL against Sydney United at North Sydney Oval.

some Academy players and those senior players who needed match practice.

Dave McPherson played the full match whilst Stuart Slater and Archie Thompson had a half each. David Terminello played a full match and scored, whilst new recruits Daniel Valevski and Josh Kennedy showed up in their first game for Carlton. Final score? Carlton defeated Green Gully 3-2.



Luke Casserly: The Spirit's central marker.

CARLTON last week played a friendly match against Victorian State League side Green Gully since their game against South Melbourne has been deferred due to the League champions being in Brazil for the FIFA World Club championship.

The match was arranged by coach Stuart Munro who took the opportunity to play

For Carlton's match against the Auckland Kingz last Friday at Olympic Park, Dave McPherson was out serving a suspension.

●●●●



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS last Friday night for their home match against Sydney Olympic, unveiled a large line up of pre match entertainment for the fans.

Kicking off the bill were the colourful and attractive 'Heartbreakers Cheer Squad' doing their synchronised dance routines, Westpac's Rescue Helicopter lifted four parachuters from centre-



Archie Thompson: Carlton's exciting striker.



By John Economos

pitch to perform some skydiving stunts, plus there was a Shoot-out competition sponsored by Harvey Norman Super Store, The Post Newspapers and NewFM 105.3.

●●●●

WHO was the central marker that recently was spotted in the gambling den playing the computerised races at the plush Club Marconi, late the night before his own club's most important match of the season to date?

No, it wasn't any of the Marconi defenders.

Anyhow the next day, said 'race-gambler' had an outstanding match for his team.

In fact he even saved his side from certain defeat when late in the match he executed two fabulous goal-saving tackles.

●●●●

SYDNEY UNITED'S new coach David Ratcliffe is about to sign up three new young-guns to add to his rebuilt squad.

Waiting to be registered with the National League are:

Zvonko Usljebrka (South Coast United), Andy Rakic (Youth), and Terry Palapanis (Canterbury/Olympic).

●●●●

ADELAIDE CITY, coached by the long-serving, tough and most successful coach in the League, Zoran Matic, last week made three major appointments in its restructuring of its administration since the resignation of C.E.O. Ned Coten.

The three positions established with respective appointees, are:

Promotions, Advertising and Events Manager, Angelo Picca.

Finance & Administration, Tony Di Fiori.

Marketing and Sales



Zoran Matic: Coach of the 'Black and Whites.'

manager, Matt Smith.

Adelaide City's chief, Mr Bob D'Ottavi stated: "We have now formed a force to be reckoned with both on and off the field."

"Good teams are always well supported by good management and sound administration to ensure the Club operates smoothly."

"The future is not always decided on the past. So we are being proactive by preparing well ahead of time to secure the Club's future in readiness for full time professionalism."

The 'Black and Whites' are one of the best financially controlled clubs in the entire League with an excellent syndicate of strong sponsors, in addition to this season's acquired cash-rich major sponsorship of world renowned Italian giants, 'Barilla'.

●●●●

BERND STANGE, Perth Glory's astute, no-nonsense German



David Ratcliffe: To sign three Young Guns.

coach, was full of praise for his high scoring midfielder Con Boutsianis last week.

"He can do anything he wants with that ball."

"It seems as if the ball has Con's eyes glued to it."

"He is one of the best takers of free-kicks that you can find," ended the Glory's master.

No, there's no truth in the rumours that Con has some Brazilian blood in him.

●●●●

STOCK EXCHANGES Around the world have gone crazy with soaring prices right across the boards. In fact, Stock Exchanges to the uninitiated have become nothing short of 'casinos' for greedy gamblers who believe that they actually are 'genuine investors'.

Many of these 'investors' today include some most prominent names of Soccer players from the NSL.

Just over two years ago,



Con Boutsianis: Praised by the Glory's coach.

markets across Asia had rocketed to dizzy heights. All Asians believed that all they had to do was just 'BUY'...anything in fact, and they would make money.

Then came the unexpected 'Asian Melt Down' when all stocks crashed from Korea, Japan,

Stock Exchange.

This Scotty did. And with great regrets down the track.

Scotty unfortunately got caught up in the crash but was able to pay up and hang on to all his portfolio for any possible pending recovery.

Today, 'Good Oil' is most pleased to learn that the highly likeable Scotty, has made a marvellous recovery by just hanging on over the past turbulent 18 months to more than weather the storm.

Back in Australia however, our markets over the past 18 months have also boomed. Daily they have kept steaming ahead.

One very well known former Australian World Cup international, and a most conservative and sensible investor, resisted for a whole year the temptation, or madness, to enter into the market.

As the markets kept heading 'north' with monotonous regularity, and hugely fuelled by the speculative Internet stocks and Telcos, our former Australian international became frustrated.

Last Tuesday afternoon, he became so frustrated that he finally threw caution to the wind, cut loose, and heavily entered the market buying up blue chips 'all round the wicket'.

No sooner had he got himself, (at long last), into



Scotty Ollerenshaw: Recovered from Asian crash.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

stocks and shares, the very next day (Wednesday) the inevitable happened.

The Australian Stock Exchange crashed to the tune of 73 plus points, leaving our former, conservative international, 'clean-bowled', to the tune of many thousands of dollars.

BOBBY CATLIN, the Newcastle Breakers' giant goalkeeper, last Friday night in the battle against his former club Sydney Olympic at the Breakers' Stadium, knocked up his 300th match in the NSL, despite missing two seasons whilst playing in England.

Bobby climbed into the ranks of the NSL back in 1984 with Apia Leichhardt before going overseas for two years to play with Notts County. Upon his return, the quality custodian and gentle giant, signed up with Marconi for a spell before moving again, this time to Sydney Olympic for one season two years ago.

Since arriving at the Breakers at the beginning of last season, 'John Wayne' has injected

enormous experience, steel and defiance to the Novocastrian's defence.



Bob Catlin: Now a 'triple centurion'.

The marvellous Catlin is only the 29th player, and just the second goalkeeper in the NSL to have knocked up his 'triple ton'.

THE NSW SUPER LEAGUE that kicked off last weekend with an expanded competition of 14 teams (two more than last season), will culminate with the Grand Final in July.

The President of the NSW Soccer Federation, Mr Peter Gray, stated last night to 'Good Oil':

"One of the main reasons for the much earlier start this year of the new Super

League season, is to enable our competition to be completed well before the Sydney Olympics.

"This season sees no less than \$75,000 in cash monies going to the Minor Champions and Grand Final Winners."

Admission prices remain the same at \$10 per adult, \$5.00 for concession and \$2.00 for children under 16 years of age.

For next weekend's fixtures, please refer to the NSW section on Page 15.



Peter Gray: President of the NSW Soccer Federation.

THE PARRAMATTA POWER next Tuesday (18th) will be staging free Soccer clinics during the



By John Economos

school holidays. The Power Soccer Clinic will run for one hour and will have as instructors the Parramatta players headed up by Senior coach David Mitchell.

The attending children will all receive a free Parramatta Power poster, plus a free ticket to the Power vs Gippsland Falcons game at the Parramatta Stadium on Saturday January 22nd.

Starting time for the Power Clinic will be at 10.30am and will be assembled at the Ted Horwood Reserve, Renown Road, Baulkham Hills.

Entry to the car park is opposite the Baulkham Hills Sporting Club.

More information may be obtained from the Power's Soccer office on Tel: 02-9630 9777.

THE MARCONI STALLIONS tomorrow night (Wednesday 12th) will

play an exhibition match against the touring side from the first division of Macedonia, 'Pobeda Prilip', at the Marconi Stadium.

'Pobeda Prilip' are currently in second spot on the ladder and have in their touring squad four National Team players, including ace-goalscorer Nikolec Zraveski.

The touring side's coach as well as manager are both involved with the national team holding the same positions.



Eddie Krncevic: Looking forward to a different style of Soccer.

Marconi's coach Eddie Krncevic stated last night: "With our NSL match against the Parramatta Power having been postponed, it's a

great opportunity for me and the players to have a solid match against an international opponent such as Pobeda Prilep.

"It will be most interesting to see the two vastly different styles of Soccer played by them and

us," commented Krncevic.

Prior bookings for tomorrow night's match which kicks off at 7.30pm, may be made today and tomorrow by contacting the Reception of Club Marconi on 02-9823 2222.

●●●●

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

IS LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED PLAYERS

to join our NSW Soccer Federation Division 2 squad.

Training is on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6.00pm at:

St John's College Oval, Sydney University

(entry off Missenden Road)

For more details please contact:

Ben Docker (9552 6429) or Simon Philips (9210 4077)

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MARCONI STALLIONS v CANBERRA COSMOS

SUNDAY JANUARY 16

AT THE



MARCONI STADIUM



KICK-OFF 6PM

(Gates Open 5pm)

Marconi Stallions Youth v ACT Academy

8.15pm



Michael Turnbull



Mike Smith



Kris Trajanovski



Eddie Krncevic

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FOUR NATION OLYMPIC TOURNAMENT

GOLDEN START



By Allan Crisp

Raul Blanco has the player power and the method to win an Olympic football medal when the Games of the 27th Olympiad swing into action in September.

That may loom as a rash assessment after the Olyroos 1-0 win over reigning Olympic champion Nigeria, but many encouraging signs emerged from the opening hit-out on Sunday night.

There was skill, pace and purpose aplenty as Australia's Under 23 contingent triumphed over the slick Nigerians, labelled by Blanco as the Brazilians of Africa.

Not even an attempt by Nigerian coach Bitrus Bewarang to devalue the win by declaring that his squad contained only three players with previous international experience should tarnish Australia's first round success.

The facts are that, despite the narrow winning margin, Australia created more genuine scoring chances than the visitors, housed the best two players on the pitch - Hayden Foxe and Nick Rizzo - and can boast a vigilant, iron-clad defence which deservedly ended the contest with a clean sheet.

Rizzo's mazy midfield runs and his energetic work rate meant that the former Liverpool player was unlikely to see out the full quota of action, but

the tiny ball of fire maintained the rage until he was replaced by Jacob Burns in the 66th minute.

Flame-haired Foxe was superb in the key sweeper role, gliding effortlessly into attack with the guile and style of the great Milan Ivanovic.

While there were periods of uncertainty facing the pace and skill of the renowned Africans, there were no real weaknesses evident in Blanco's run-on team.

Goalkeeper Joe Didulica was clean and precise in his handling, was accurate in his distribution, but had no fierce hot shots to save.

Chris Coyne, Steve Laybutt and Tansel Baser teamed effectively in front of Foxe, while Marco Bresciano, Wehrman and Jason Culina struck up a ready understanding with captain courageous Brett Emerton, Allsopp and Rizzo.

Vince Grella had a mere 10 minutes on the park after replacing Culina, but is obviously a strong candidate for the hotly contested midfield positions.

"We can improve and we should improve," Blanco said. "We gave the ball away in the wrong



Kasey Wehrman: Picked out star performer Hayden Foxe which lead to Australia's goal.

places, but it's always difficult when you have only five days to get them together."

Australia's goal was all class as Kasey Wehrman picked out Foxe, who had ghosted onto the left flank where the Sanfrece Hiroshima defender despatched a square pass across the goalmouth for Danny Allsopp to net his second career goal for the Olyroos.

"I'd like to be able to say that the goal was the result of a rehearsed move, but I won't lie, it wasn't, but it was a very good goal," Blanco said.

AUSTRALIA 1
(Allsopp 42)
NIGERIA 0

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium.
Crowd: 5807
Referee: Gerry Connolly
Cautions: Bresciano (Aust) 29, Rizzo (Aust) 51.

Olyroos: Didulica, Bresciano, Baser, Coyne, Foxe, Laybutt, Emerton, Wehrman, (Sterjovski 90), Allsopp, Culina (Grella 80), Rizzo (Burns 66).

Nigeria: Aiyenugba, Okougou, Ikasipe, Johnson, Ibeji, Salawubeen (Isah 60), Akaruye, (Obiah 88), Obafuoso, Okouwo, Omokoh, Dooyum.

Australia signalled their intentions from the kick-off with Crystal Palace youngster Rizzo having his third minute shot blocked.

Speedy Nigerian trickster Philip Obafuoso proved an early handful for Bresciano, but the Empoli midfielder met the challenge manfully before proving his fitness by finishing as strongly as he began the game.

Culina was denied a second half penalty claim after being ridden into the ground in the box. That action spurred the Olyroos into forcing two quick corner kicks, the second of which saw Emerton power a header goalwards.

Laybutt presented his skipper with the scoring chance but Emerton's attempt was cleared off the goalline by Nigerian defender Dandy Okougou.

Blanco was impressed by Nigeria and the display in the early game of both Korea and Egypt.

"It will be harder for Nigeria and Egypt to acclimatise, but easier for Korea to adjust because they are in the same time frame as us," he said.

"There are some tough games ahead for us, but that's just what we need as this stage of our preparation."

Emerton, meanwhile, can't wait for September. "It will be great to run out in front of a packed MCG and be cheered on by our home crowd."

THE DRAW

SUNDAY 9/1/2000
6.00pm Egypt vs South Korea 0-2
8.15pm AUSTRALIA vs Nigeria 1-0

WEDNESDAY 12/1/2000
6.00pm South Korea vs Nigeria
8.15pm AUSTRALIA vs Egypt

SATURDAY 15/1/2000
6.00pm Nigeria vs Egypt
8.15pm AUSTRALIA vs South Korea

KOREA HIT THE HEIGHTS

By Allan Crisp

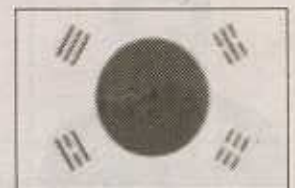
KOREA 2
(Seol 68, Lee 89)
EGYPT 0

Confident Korea set the stage for an exciting Four Nations Tournament with an any-thing-can-happen 2-0 win over Egypt.

Second half goals from Ki Hyeon Seol and substitute Kwan Woo Lee put paid to 10-man Egypt's hopes of starting on a winning note.

The skill factor was high and the endeavour crammed full of energy, but both teams lacked the ability to complete most of the chances created.

Korea was bolstered by a lively local supporter group of chanting, drum beating fans who rivalled the "Balm Army" of Test Cricket fame.



And there was an unprecedented scene when a sword-wearing fan had his weapon confiscated by security guards.

Referee Brett Hugo clamped down quickly on spirited tackling by issuing two bookings in a three-minute burst.

Korea was unlucky not to have snatched a first half lead when a diving header from Seol cannoned off the far post and the rebound was struck wide by captain Do Kyun Kim.

The break through came in sensational fashion as Seol belted in a 25-metre screamer.

Korea's late goal from Lee looked to be off-side, but there was no doubting the overall superiority of the winning team.

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SOUTH COMMIT IN HEAT OF BATTLE



Con Blatsis: Wins the ball from Necaxa's Alvarez.

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne played with heart and commitment against formidable opponents Vasco Da Gama and Necaxa during the FIFA tournament in Brazil before eventually surrendering to heat and exhaustion at the Maracana stadium in Rio De Janeiro.

If there needed to be further illustration of the tough competition and of South's Aussie heroics, it was the poor showing by world team Manchester United in the same group.

The European champion struggled to a 1-1 draw with Necaxa, and lost 3-1 to Vasco Da Gama.

South Melbourne lost 2-0 to Vasco and 3-1 to Necaxa. They held their own against the Brazilians until the 52th

minute, before Felipe thundered the opener past Chris Jones and Edmundo wriggled the ball into the net from an acute angle in the 87th minute.

"We tried our best. They scored two good goals and we had a couple of chances but missed them," South captain Paul Trimboli said.

"But over all, it was a fair result. I think the fans can be proud of us. We let nobody down. We held our own. It took two good goals to beat us," he said.

South looked sluggish against Necaxa, but showed flair in some passages.

It found itself two goals down before John Anastasiadis registered South's first goal of the tournament from a scramble just on half time.

But the Melbourne side was unlucky to concede the first goal. Con Blatsis was judged to have handled the ball, while he appeared to have controlled it with his chest. Montecinos struck from the spot after 19 minutes.

The Mexicans' second goal was a classy strike on the run by Delgado after 30 minutes, while Necaxa's third penalty in the 78th minute also looked a bit soft. Nick Orlic seemed to have brought down Delgado but the South



Nick Orlic: South's hard man gets stuck in.

defender also appeared to have touched the ball on the way.

Montecinos put the second penalty wide in the 25th minute after Fausto De Amicis tugged at an opponent's shirt.

Australia's and Oceania's champion has received general praise for their underdog displays, although South struggled more against Necaxa than against Vasco in their opening game.

Former English Premier League player Trevor Brooking, now a television commentator, pointed out the dif-

ference in the two performances and what toll it had taken to do so well against tournament favorite Vasco Da Gama.

"The game against Vasco must have taken a lot out of the South Melbourne players. They weren't running, marking or closing down as much against the Mexicans. They looked stretched against Necaxa," Brooking observed.

South's final match of the tournament, against Manchester United, is on Wednesday morning.

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TOWARDS SYDNEY 2000

AT A GLANCE ...

Full Name: Daniel Lee Allsopp
Club: Manchester City
Date of Birth: 10th August 1978
Left or right footed? Right
Eye Colour: Green
Hair Colour: Blonde
Height: 186cm
Weight: 86kg
Positions Played: Striker

THE STATS ...

Olyroo (Under-23) Appearances: 4
(Vs Country)
Olyroo Goals (Vs Country): 1
National Representative Honours (others): U17s, U20s
Number of Seasons with current Club: 1st
Clubs Played For: Port Melbourne, Carlton, South Melbourne
Junior Clubs: Monbulk, Croydon City, Knox City
Age I started played soccer: 5

THE LOOK FORWARD ...

Career Highlight to date: Representing Australia
Biggest Achievement to date: Winning the Golden Boot at the U17 World Championship — 1995 Ecuador.
Ambition: To play regularly in a long career in the UK.

PERSONALITY ...

Favourite Band: Pearl Jam
List 3 CDs you couldn't live without: Pearl Jam — "Ten"
Pearl Jam — "Vitalogy"
Pearl Jam — "Versus"
If you could be a character from any movie, who would you be? Mel Gibson from "Braveheart"
Favourite Comedian: Jerry Seinfeld
Last Book read: Hannibal
Best ever concert: Pearl Jam, Melbourne Park in 1998.
Favourite Food: Chinese
Favourite Drink: Bud
Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld

THE PEERS ...

Favourite Overseas Player: Ronaldo
Favourite Overseas Team: Manchester City
Most Admired Australian (based locally): Paul Trimboli
Most Admired Australian (based OS): Harry Hewell
Most Admired Defender: Paulo Maldini
Most Admired Midfielder: Roy Keane
Most Admired Striker: Ronaldo
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Peter Schmeichel
Dream choice of which world league? English Premier League
Major influences: My Father and my Fiancee
Words of advice: "Never Give Up"

Olyroo file #7

DANIEL ALLSOPP

Q: You are really an unknown quantity as far as many Australian soccer supporters are concerned — so WHO IS DANNY ALLSOPP?

A: I'm born and bred in Melbourne, so I suppose that's a good start. As far as my soccer career goes, I went to the VIS before signing for South Melbourne, where I spent two years.

I then went to Carlton for about six months before moving to England. I've also played for Australia at every youth level so far, and I'm pretty proud of that achievement. I feel I've made big improvements to my game since I went overseas, and I think it's helped me a lot as a player — in fact I'd say I'm a much better player now than how many people might remember me from when I played in Australia, which would be more than a couple of years ago.

Q: You've been away from home for quite a while now — what do you miss most?

A: Well, I've been away for almost two years and of course I miss my family the most, but quite close behind them is the sun, because I really haven't seen any sun for two years.

When we come back here in the break it's winter, so I miss that a lot, and I also miss the familiarity of Melbourne and my friends, but other than that, I don't miss out on much. Oh, and I'm picking up a nice training tan in Adelaide at the moment with the Olyroos for the Four Nation Tournament!

Q: How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life?

A: Hopefully, two things will happen — I will make the final squad, and the team as a whole will do well, and start to get the recognition that I feel we deserve in this country.

It would be great for the players to make names for themselves in Australia rather than just being known overseas — some of us are known more in England than we are in Australia, and it would be really nice to make a name for ourselves here.

Other than that, it will be an achievement we'll remember for the rest of our lives, taking part and doing much more at the Sydney Olympics.

Q: Pressure is obviously mounting, with the final squad of 18 to be



Daniel Allsopp: Loves to score goals.

named in around six months ... how are your fellow players — and competitors for spots — starting to react to this?

A: There's a lot of competition for every position on the park and everyone knows that no-one is guaranteed a spot. Basically, there are 2-3 good players for every position on the team, which really is good for everyone, because while there's competition you're always improving.

Raul will of course make the final decision on the team, but for the moment, everyone's fighting hard to impress.

Q: What motivates you?

A: I don't really need motivation as such, I just love playing and the challenge of playing well really motivates me to do well every time I step onto the park, whether it be for training, or a match.

Q: What inspires you?

A: I love to score goals and that's really where most strikers get their joy out of playing — you can play well and not score and know you played well, but the real buzz is from putting the ball into the back of the net.

Q: LG Socceroo Danny Tiatto is both a Manchester City team-mate and a former Olyroo — does it help, particularly mentally, having him around?

A: Yes it does. I've spoken to Danny a few times about playing in the Olympics, and he's given me stories about his experiences at Atlanta.

All of his memories of being an Olympian are about how good it was, and now, with the Games in Australia, well, I just can't imagine what it'll be like, provided I make the squad.

Q: How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the LG Under-23 Squad?

A: I always seem to score goals and I have a fairly good goals-to-game ratio. I'm also a hard working striker, working both defensively and offensively — a lot of the time, people don't realise that I do cover a lot more ground than they actually notice, in fact I think a lot of strikers do that.

I've also improved many aspects of my game which were lacking and I'm still improving my game, but my major strength would be my pace, that's what my game revolves around — gives me a yard of space to get a shot in, and I think I've got a good chance.

Q: What do you think are the pros ... and the cons ... of fighting for selection while playing in England?

A: I think it's a mainly positive thing for me, because I think we gain a lot by being in a fulltime professional league, and my Club's doing

really well at the moment, sitting at the top of the First Division. We have a good side so I'm learning a lot off good players. The down side is the Australian players get seen more than we do, but I really think that's about it, I've never found a negative thing about playing in England.

Q: Is there much talk about the Olympics in your part of the world?

A: I don't think England's going to be a part of the 2000 Olympics, but the local Manchester papers have taken an interest in what I'm doing, once they've known I was in this squad, and the other players in my team have been fairly interested in it, they know it's a good opportunity for me.

Q: Is there any one particular member of this current squad who you feel stands out?

A: I think that probably Hayden Foxe stands out — he's got maturity above his years the way he plays, and he's really talented — he's going to go a long way.

Q: Is there a particular Olympian who inspires you, and why?

A: Kieran Perkins — I've enjoyed watching him swim, and when I think of Australian Olympians, he's always the one who springs to mind, particularly because he's been the underdog so often.

Q: And your final words for the Australian public?

A: I know what Australians are like, so I know they'll be behind us when the Olympics come around, particularly the parochial Melbournites. But that's not to say that the Australian public shouldn't be behind us right now, and at the moment, it's Adelaide's chance to see us in action against some great teams in the Four Nation Tournament, so what better time to show your support?

Feature courtesy of Soccer Australia media department. Already profiled Brett Emerton, Steven Laybutt, Lucas Neill, Michael Curcija, Nick Rizzo and Jacob Burns.

"...the real buzz is from putting the ball into the back of the net."

UNITED V OLYMPIC

— DERBY DAY BECKONS —

By Vince Battiato

One of Sydney's traditional sporting rivalries, Sydney United — Sydney Olympic matches, span back to the 1960s.

With fire and brimstone the usual recipe, this year's derby has an added bonus. The two sides are at opposite ends of the table.

Of course that means nothing on Sunday.

United are struggling this season whilst Olympic are reaping the rewards of finally giving a coach more than half a season to build a side worthy of winning the title.

And of late Olympic coach Branko Culina has been getting results with almost a youth team.

"We've been missing up to six key players for a number of weeks now and against United we'll be without Peter Tsekenis, Scotty Thomas, Zlatko

Arambasic (all injured), Brett Emerton (Olyroo Duty) and Pablo Cardozo (suspended).

"I'll have seven players in the squad under the age of 20."

Olympic is a big blow and Culina will be looking to Gabriel 'CiCi' Mendez to lead by example.

Marcus Phillips, a revelation at Olympic this season since signing from Marconi,

season.

Stalwart Velimir Kupresak will need to undergo exploratory surgery to determine what is required to correct his right leg.

With Vince Savocca,

a massive re-shuffle."

To add insult to injury, Matthew Zec will be missing and Ray Younis is suspended.

United will need to look to players like Ante Moric and Tom Pondeljak to fire up the youngsters as well as new signings Terry Palapanis and Andy Rakic to help plug all the gaps left in defence by the crippling injury toll.

United will be desperate to get back that winning feeling, and who better to regain some such needed confidence against than league leaders and rivals Sydney Olympic.

A danger game for Olympic. They'll want to pick up maximum points with an under strength side which after this match has to face Carlton and South Melbourne (twice), all in the space of a week.

OUT-FOXED

By John Economos
in Adelaide

Continued from page 1

"On Wednesday night we now must face Egypt and must disregard their loss against the South Koreans. Egypt did many good technical things and were direct.

"I don't take much notice of their loss as the Egyptians arrived in Adelaide only the day before Sunday's match. By Wednesday night when they have rested and settled in, Egypt is going to be a hell of a lot stronger," warned Blanco.

Despite Australia's magnificent win over Nigeria, Olympic Young Guns such as Millwall's midfielder Lucas Neill, Parramatta Power's lithe goal-ace Mile Sterjovski, the giant striker from Sweden Clayton Zane, plus the tenacious tackling tiger from Empoli, Vince Grella, are all causing Blanco monumental headaches as they are tearing at the leash to break into the first XI to further galvanise the strength of the Australian Olympic team.

All four did not start in last Sunday's battle against Nigeria.

Yesterday Blanco split his Olympic squad into two components for the morning training session.

All the squad players that played on Sunday, did 'recovery time' with a pool session in the morning whilst the remainder that took no part in the match went out onto the pitch.

Defender Ivan Zelic broke down last week in training and Blanco swiftly drafted into the squad the Melbourne Knight's midfielder Dragi Nastevski.



"You've got to give the youngsters a chance, as I'm confident they'll keep doing the job."

The loss of Cardozo for

is also in doubt for the match.

United, all ready the cellar-dwellers have encountered more trouble in the

pulling a hamstring against Newcastle recently and Eddy Bosnar on Olympic duty the already battered United defence is in need of



Brett Emerton:
Happy captain.

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Tommy Pondeljak



Ante Moric



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HARMONY IN FOOTBALL

Dear Sir,

It's good to see that the president of FIFA, Sepp Blatter is backing away from the idea of a bi-annual World Cup, which the Europeans are dead set against anyway.

If Sepp Blatter wants to harmonise the International Football Calendar, he needs to do all he can to help strengthen all the Continental Cup competitions in the developing football and third world countries, to eventually rival the European Cup competition in there importance over the next two or three decades.

For starters all the different Continental Cup Championship's should be held every four years like Europe.



Also since Europe has expanded to about 50 odd countries (former Soviet and Yugoslav Republics) including Turkey and Israel, the other five confederations need to be reduced, or their Continental Cup Championships reduced down to three only.

That would mean Oceania joining with Asia to form the "Asia Pacific Cup" Championship, and CONCACAF and CONMEBOL to form one "COPA AMERICA'S" (American Cup) throughout the entire Western hemisphere.

As for Africa, it could be strengthened by including the Middle East and

Gulf countries up to the Pakistani border, as they are in their time zone and have more in common with Northern African countries than the rest of Asia.

It could be called the "Arab and African Cup" Championship.

Those three strengthened Continental Cup Championships would run along the same lines as the Euro Cup but with only eight finalists instead of 16 like Europe has.

You would have your usual host country and cup holder as automatic qualifiers after having a series of qualifying matches the previous year to determine the final eight finalists.

As there is a three month break from Club Football every year, all four finals series would be spread out over the 12 week period to avoid clashing with one another for television purposes.

Obviously what would suffer is the Soccer tournament of the Olympic Games, as it falls in the same year and period as well.

That can be overcome by eliminating Soccer from the Olympic Games altogether, or reducing it back to a teenage level (Under 20s).

Apart from many other issues including Women's Soccer, this is what should be on FIFA's agenda for the 21st century, not a bi-annual World Cup which would devalue the event considerably if held every second year.

The bottom line is that all other continents have to improve and try to reach Europe's high level of professionalism not, the reverse of trying to bring the Europeans down to their level, by hosting every second World Cup in a third world country every two years.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.



Sepp Blatter: Backing away.

Dominic, as usual a very interesting account of the world game. I have a question for you. If you were the IOC delegate in charge of Soccer in the Olympic Games, knowing full well that the Soccer Tournament is the most watched event of the entire games, would you EVEN CONSIDER eliminating it from the games? Or worse devaluing it to an under age tournament.

Although you make some valid points regarding scheduling and merging of confederations, you obviously do not understand the significance of Olympic Games Football.

Ask yourself why Brazil want to win it so bad. - Ed

STRIKE OUT THE COAST

Dear Sir,

As a Brisbane Striker and in general a Queensland sporting fan I was most concerned to read in the Gold Coast Bulletin (29.12.99)

that Strikers' Chairman Tony Petty would like to relocate the Strikers to the Gold Coast with Carrara Stadium the likely venue.

My concern does not lie with the relocation of the team, as I believe that Suncorp Stadium is not the best place for the Strikers, but with the relocation to the Gold Coast.

The Gold Coast has not been able to support a national team in any sport. They have had the Gold Coast Rugby League team reform itself a few times before eventually folding.

The Gold Coast Rollers basketball team and the Gold Coast Dolphins baseball team have also folded.

The Brisbane Bears (Lions), Aussie Rules team struggled on the Gold Coast before moving north to the Gabba.

As you can see the Gold Coast doesn't

have the best record with sporting teams. I would hate to see the Strikers fall to the same fate as the teams mentioned above. I'm sure Tony Petty has only the Strikers' best interests in mind so I hope he realises the Gold Coast is not for the Brisbane Strikers.

Mr Walker,
Beenleigh, NSW.

I think I have to agree with you. I would hate to see soccer lost to Brisbane, and Queensland for that matter, by a corporate decision gone wrong. Your choice of the Brisbane Lions is the perfect example.

Although when you look at each of those Gold Coast based teams in different codes, you have to admit that none of them employed the best resources (coaches, players, administration etc...) in order to challenge for their respective titles.

Who knows, if the Strikers do move maybe it will work.

I still think their needs to be a team in Brisbane though. - Ed



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TRUE LOYALTY

Dear Sir,

Firstly let's all congratulate the South Melbourne players and Angie Postecoglou for a job well done.

Having just seen the first game they played with Vasco, everything has gone against the South Melbourne team, but most of all the negative Australian publicity and attitude that they were going over there to get pumped.

Somehow I feel that the South Melbourne hierarchy felt this way as well and I can't understand why they haven't built up the team to make it bigger and better in light that they knew this huge tournament was coming up since last year.

I wish that my team's management wouldn't shut the door so firmly on some of its past SONS. I wonder how much better their performance would have been if our boys would have opened up a bit more and attacked, feeling secure that Petkovic was in goal and Durakovic was our sweeper.

Or to see 100,000 Vasco supporter's jaws drop at the unexpected free kicks (four chances) Con Boutsianis would have taken, and I am very sure at least one would have gone in.

All these boys would have been there if the South Melbourne Committee weren't so stingy and unyielding in negotiating contracts with these players.

I personally know these players and I know South Melbourne didn't have to shut

the door on them.

Like all South Melbourne supporters I know and truly believe we are the best Soccer Club in the country and all I want is for my club to always be Number One. You can never over invest in a club like ours.

We are very fussy and pushy supporters and always want a perfect team. Mr Vasilopoulos, give us a near perfect facility (better and more parking and a larger grandstand) and a super team and I guarantee we will be the best supported club in the NSL.

At the moment we are King of the Castle, but there are others trying to take our Crown (Carlton, Perth, Olympic). Don't let them. Spend our millions wisely on players and ground facilities and we will be Kings forever.

Con Tripodis,
Black Rock, Vic.

Con, your undying loyalty to South Melbourne is admirable but it is a little bit naive to assume that Petkovic, Durakovic and Boutsianis would have made a difference.

Hey, maybe they would have.

But that's really a case of would've should've, could've. Know what I mean?

You should forget the past and concentrate on what was a super performance by Souths against Vasco.

There is no shame in losing to two absolute class goals. - Ed

NO MIRACLES AT COSMOS

By Graham Cooke

It seems a long time ago. Canberra Cosmos had just won their opening game of the season 3-0 over Adelaide City Force, and coach Tom Sermanni was fielding questions over how he had managed this "miraculous" change of fortune.

"There's no miracles, there are still a lot of

problems," he said.

"We played cup final football out there tonight and you can't go through every game doing that."

Those words have proved depressingly accurate in recent weeks. The euphoria of the early season quickly evaporated — not a single point was gathered in December — and now Canberra are back in familiar territory at the foot of the National Soccer League, having fallen to their sixth consecutive loss in Auckland last week.

Casual observers may feel they can put their fingers on the problem — 19 goals conceded in those six losses, an average of more than three a game. However, Sermanni says the problem is more complicated than a leaking defence.

"It has to do with attitude," he said. "A failure to take the initiative in a game."

"We have fallen into the habit of sitting back and watching what our opposition will do. More often than not it's been to watch them score a goal against us, then immediately we have a struggle on our hands."

"We have simply lost the ability to take control of a game. In many cases it's just handing over points."

"I would like to say I have pinpointed why we are doing this and found a way of countering it, but quite frankly I haven't."

"In recent weeks we have changed the training routine, we have tried out different playing systems, and against the Auckland Kingz I changed the side substantially. Nothing has worked as yet."

"In the end the responsibility for how this team performs comes down to me, but I feel the players

must take charge of themselves and change their attitude if we are to make any kind of a recovery."

Sermanni pointed to the suspension of midfielder Harry James for last Friday's game in Adelaide as a prime example. "Harry was one of a number of players who had yellow cards against them, and I warned the team before the game in Auckland not to get involved in anything foolish," he said.

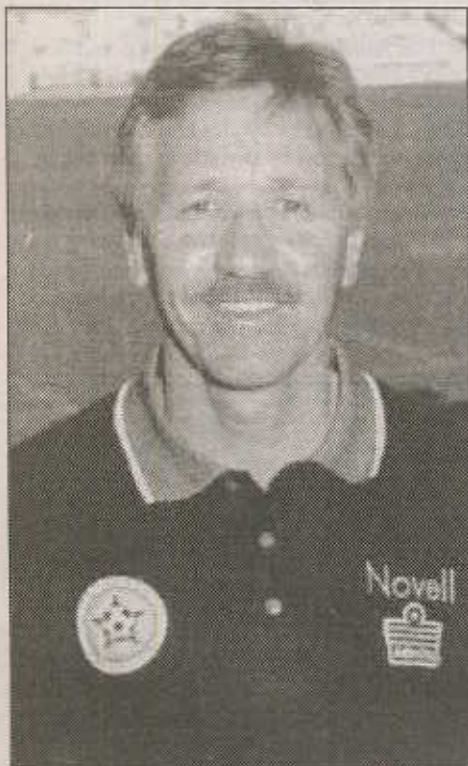
"Then Harry gets a soft free kick awarded against him and slams the ball down on to the pitch, so he gets a yellow card and we lose his services for an entire game."

To add to Sermanni's problems, he now has to cope with a growing injury list that includes captain Robbie Hooker, midfielder Paul Roberts and Scottish import David Winnie. Alex Castro, who broke his leg in the early weeks of the season, is back in training but not yet ready to plug the gaps.

He is likely to persevere with goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou, despite Grant Barlow, who has filled the position for most of the season, having recovered from injury.

"Angelo is not to blame for the problems we have been suffering," the coach said. "Against Auckland I made him one of the best players along with Danny Burt, and Brian Hamilton in the second half."

"We are not a bad side. Not the kind of side which has to scratch around for points. We have players of experience and quality, but we are not playing anywhere near our potential."



Tom Sermanni: Hoping for an attitude change.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

No rest time for Wolves despite a free weekend, having played one game ahead of the round against South Melbourne.

Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is using the rest from the competition to pin-point physical fitness, allowing players to improve overall condition to last at full pace for 90 minutes.

Naturally some boys with minor knocks — like captain Matt Horsley with a head cut — need to recuperate but still are being asked to commit themselves to serious training. The coach will have time to think about selections with star performers Paul Reid and Stuart Young available after serving suspensions.

It is an enviable position to be in. Theodorakopoulos is not getting carried away with his side well placed after 15 rounds played so far. There is still a long way to go.

□□□□

The soccer world in the country is taking notice of Wollongong — even the Sydney Daily Telegraph contributed a special article recently to the team's performance. Locals are disturbed by talks of slashing the NSL to 12 teams and the Wolves are mentioned as one of the four teams to be culled.

General manager of the Wolves Graeme Haney is realistic dealing with the situation, saying the Wolves are quite capable to compete with other clubs to meet the survival criteria.

His efforts are aimed at attracting support in numbers from the fans coming to the home

games, gaining assistance from the political and other community leaders for the club's plea to stay in the top league.

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Summer soccer camps with Wolves captain Matt Horsley are held this month. The first one at Brandon Park attracted around hundred youngsters of all age groups. The timing could have influenced the numbers with many parents still on holiday and not returning until later in the month.

Assisting to train the talented juniors are Wolves stars Esala Masi, Stuart Young, Scott Chipperfield and Christian Zelvis. The second camp has been set down for Monday 10/1 to Wednesday 12/1 at Kiama with another record attendance expected.

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Englishman Terry Venables once coached the Australian national team. Now the Wolves have also signed a famous name sake in operations officer Shirley Venables, joining the team and working out of the office at Brandon Park.

She replaces Marg Cannon who spent two years in the job.

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Ace striker Saso Petrovski has a secret ingredient behind his success — he is one of the top NSL strikers.

"I eat pasta before a game because it makes me run faster," he said. Well he looks lightning quick on the field. Since joining the Wolves from state league team Parramatta, the 24-year-old forward has improved out of sight, working well with fellow team strikers Stuart Young and Esala Masi. He has overcome a nagging knee injury and is back to full fitness.



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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

PERTH GLORY

Round 14 (Played January 3)

By John Economos

Sydney Olympic in a re-scheduled match against the Perth Glory last Monday at the Belmore Sports Ground, had to launch a sustained attack over the last 30 minutes before they were able to salvage a well earned 1-1 draw to remain clear League leaders after Round 15 with one game in hand.

The match was action-packed mainly by the second session display by Olympic whose passing game won over the large crowd of 8,134 with the skilled Pablo Cardozo always threatening to create some danger to the Glory.

The Glory's high scoring midfielder Con Boutsianis did it again when he lifted the Glory into the lead in the 33rd minute with a fabulous free kick from 25 metres that rocketed into the top right corner.

Olympic had to launch raid after raid in the second half before their ace-goalscorer Pablo Cardozo equalised with a sensational goal in the 76th minute after playing a one-two with substitute Chris Kalantzis

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before scoring from an acute angle on the right.

The Glory's sweeper Gareth Naven and goalie Jason Petkovic gave superb displays of defiance to keep a raging Olympic from scoring further goals.

The Glory inexplicably seemed flat and never found their free-flowing rhythm, maybe because the Olympic midfielders, especially Marcus Phillips, choked the Glory's 'engine-room' in the middle of the pitch with biting-tackles.

Best for Olympic were Cardozo, Phillips, Baillie and Emerton, whilst for the Glory their best performers were 'Man Of The Match' and sweeper Gareth Naven, goalie Jason Petkovic and right midfielder Ivan Ergic.

After the match Glory's coach Bernd Stange stated: "Olympic and



Gareth Naven: Glory's defiant sweeper.

Glory are similar teams with exciting styles, but we came to Sydney to win to get within two points behind Olympic. But we got a lucky goal through Boutsianis and created more chances and Despotovski hit the post. My team felt very flat and I don't know the reason why. I was only happy over the first 60 minutes."

Olympic's coach Branko Culina stated: "We planned on taking Boutsianis out of the game but unfortunately he is a great player and scored with that great free-kick. We showed character to fight back and get something out of this game. All the second half I felt we were on top. We needed seven points from our last three games and got them against Brisbane, the Power and the Glory."

As early as in the 17th minute Petkovic was forced to push a Cardozo 20-metre free kick onto his left upright. Glory's striker Bobby Despotovski shaved the left upright from 12 metres in the 61st minute, whilst Despotovski again was unfortunate as his header in the 66th minute was pushed onto the left post by Olympic's goalie George Bouhoutos.

Australia's Olympic captain and Sydney Olympic's right midfielder Brett Emerton, was totally and wrongly 'booked' for 'diving' by referee Matthew Breeze when the giant attacker was scythed down just outside the box by Glory's stopper Edgar Junior. This alarming blunder hugely irritated the large crowd at Belmore.

AUCKLAND KINGZ

CANBERRA COSMOS

Round 14 (Played January 3)

By Vince Battiato

Auckland sent the Canberra Cosmos home from the North Harbour stadium sporting their sixth consecutive loss after a 3-1 victory.

The Kingz should have been in front after nine minutes but were thwarted not for the only time in this match by Canberra keeper Angelo Konstantinou, who was standing in for the regular Grant Barlow.

The signs looked ominous for the Cosmos who had to endure constant pressure from Auckland, who had set up base camp in the Canberra half in the first 20 minutes.

But after soaking up the pressure the Cosmos produced two chances within a minute.

A deft one-two between Toplica Popovich and Jason Polak ended in Popovich forcing a fine save out of the Kiwi custodian Jason Batty.

A minute later it was Daniel Watkins who found space on the right, his shot shaving the far post.

But it wasn't until the 31st minute that Auckland finally got some reward for all their dominance and the goal came from a perfectly direct route.

Batty's clearance was flicked-on down the left by Ivan Vicelich. The

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ball fell to Dino Mennillo who crossed for Aaron Silva to score first time.

Silva, elated at his finish in his first game back after being layed off for six weeks injured.

The Kingz have never lost at home when Silva has been on the scoresheet. This match was no different.

And he should have been on the scoresheet again on the stroke of half time. Put through by an elegant lob by Fred de Jong, Silva couldn't finish after rounding the keeper.

The Cosmos were lucky not to be down by more than one at the break and Auckland came out in the second half to kill off the game as quickly as possible.

They only had to wait five minutes as Vicelich sent a speculative clearance upfield. Cosmos defender Danny Burt was caught flat-footed and Silva streaked away timing and placing his cross perfectly at the feet of de Jong, who made no mistake.

Robbie Middleby had caused plenty of headaches for the Cosmos all afternoon and it was fitting that he should earn the free-kick which lead to goal number three.

A simple goal. Chris Jackson curling in the free kick for Che Bunce to climb unchallenged and head into the net.

With the match wrapped up the Kingz relaxed and in the 71st minute a clumsy challenge by Lee Jones on Paul Roberts saw Auckland play out the final 19 minutes a man down.

And it was with the extra man that Canberra pulled a goal back. A neat back-heel by Watkins to Glen Kolpak in the 83rd minute saw



Robbie Middleby: Tormented Canberra.

Kolpak's cross find substitute Michael Musitano totally unmarked in the Kingz box. A tap in. 3-1.

The Cosmos found some life in the final minutes but it was too little, too late.

Canberra boss Tom Sermanni was understandably not pleased; "It was a second rate performance.

"We were outplayed and outbeaten."

A convincing win for the Kingz but some definite work is needed in defence if they are to pose a serious threat to the title contenders.

ROUND 15

CARLTON SC

AUCKLAND KINGZ

By Bert van Bedaf

Carlton captain Andrew Marth saved the night for the Blues with an injury time equaliser against the Auckland Football Kingz only seconds away from the final whistle at Olympic Park last Friday night in a scrappy match of poor passing and few strikes on goal.

The Kingz looked like enhancing their growing reputation as giant killers by being in front for 82 minutes of the match, but they were denied victory and forced to accept a 1-1 draw at the last gasp.

Previously, the Kingz had beaten Marconi, Sydney Olympic and Adelaide away, rapidly becoming real prospects for a finals place in their inaugural NSL season.

In contrast the Blues struggled with little quality or finesse shown on the park.

"It was a very frustrating evening," Carlton coach Stuart Munro said afterwards.

"We had 80 percent of the play, especially in the second half, and 80 percent of the chances. But their 'keeper made three or four excellent saves. He had an outstanding game.

"They (Kingz) came here to get a draw and they could have won the game.

"Their goal was a joke to me. It was pathetic (defending). Luckily, we got the equaliser. We got a reward out of the game and I thought we deserved it, although it wasn't a good Carlton performance," he said.

Assistant coach Shane Rufer (brother to Wynton Rufer) denied the

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Kingz had been looking for only a point. "We're trying to win every game," he said.

"We lost 3-0 to Carlton in the first game and since then we've gone through a learning curve. We're trying hard in a top league. The Australian teams seem better prepared. But we're trying to get results.

"Also, for Oceania football it is important that the Kingz are involved.

"It is a positive move that we are involved in this league. It has given young boys at home something to look up to.

It is offering them a possibility," Rufer said.

A Carlton own goal put the Kingz in front after only 11 minutes. Kingz captain Harry Ngata curled a corner to the near post. Former Carlton player Marcus Stergiopolous dummied the ball, which bounced off Craig Deans' hip into the net for the Kingz goal.

Carlton should have equalised four minutes later, when Kingz 'keeper Jason Batty spilled a 20-metre shot by Stuart Slater. But Archie



Andrew Marth: Match saver.

Thompson hit the post with the rebound and the Kingz defence cleared.

Carlton dominated the second half, pushing towards goal, but its forwards could not find a way through the Kingz defence.

A frustrated Munro substituted both his strikers, Archie Thompson and Mike Conroy after 54 minutes, but replacements Alex Moreira and John Markovski also failed to find the net.

David Terminello fired a rocket on the turn a minute into the second half, but Batty punched the ball for a corner with a powerful dive.

The Blues got close again in the 55th minute after Lubo Lapsansky drilled a free-kick on the edge off the box through the defensive wall. It caught a deflection off Levent Osman and Marth stuck out a leg, but Batty saved a foot off the line.

Substitute Aaron Silva, for Dino Mennillo after 66 minutes, nearly doubled the Kingz's lead with 15 minutes left, but his powerful shot drew a fine save from Anastasiadis.

With the Kingz brigade already rubbing their hands, counting on a revenge result after losing 3-0 to Carlton in the opening round, Marth bobbed up to spoil the party.

Always on the prowl in the opponent's goal area, Marth produced the equaliser with a stunning looping header, from a Lubo Lapsansky pass, that went over Batty into the net with seconds left of three minutes of injury time. Kingz supporters complained, "We were robbed," and perhaps they're weren't so far wrong.

The Kingz will be without seven players, Che Bunce, Jon Perry, Chris Jackson, captain Harry Ngata, Ivan Vicelich, 'keeper Jason Batty and Mark Erlick for the next fortnight, since the Kiwi's go on tour to China and play South Korea at home immediately afterwards. New Zealand internationals Sean Douglas and Mark Atkinson will be missing from the Carlton line-up.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ADELAIDE CITY CANBERRA COSMOS

By Allan Crisp

Teenager Matthew Kemp emerged as an unlikely goalscoring hero when he steered Adelaide City Force to this crucial victory over his former club.

With Damian Mori sidelined through a hamstring injury, Kemp rifled home the winner in a classic style that would have made the City goal ace proud.

And with the Olyroo squad watching from a corporate box, it was fitting that another rising star, Glen Kolpak, should give youth a further fling with an eye-catching performance for the Cosmos.

Blonde-haired Kolpak imitated perpetual motion as he burned every blade of the lust Hindmarsh Stadium turf, while threatening to be the most mostly likely to net for the visitors.

Kemp, 19, switched from defence to the midfield in a pre-match shuffle to atone for the absence of Mori and to allow Brad Hassell to join Claudio Pelosi in attack. The rookie shone like a beacon to steer the Force to their third win from four unbeaten outings and keep their finals hopes burning bright.

Angelo Costanzo continued to enjoy his best season, Aurelio Vidmar, Carl Veart, Alex Tobin and Dong Ki Kim, reinforced their experienced credibility, while goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic made three top saves in giving testimony to Canberra's competitiveness.

Cosmos, much to the relief of affable coach Tommy Sermanni, turned the confidence corner as the "Politicians" took giant steps

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towards erasing the stigma of their previous seven-game losing streak.

But, it was his first goal for City that iced Kemp's cake to snare major honours of the night and justify his decision to join the club of his choice.

The ex-AIS graduate made a couple of appearances for the Comos before making an audacious phone call to City coach Zoran Matic asking for a trial.

Kemp paid his own way to the City of Churches before having his prayers answered in the shape of an NSL contract.

In aiming to avenge a first round 0-3 loss to Canberra, City's night began badly when Mori failed a fitness test and rapidly worsened when midfield playmaker Carlo Talladira was forced off in the eighth minute, suffering a knee injury to be replaced by import Atila Homjik.

Canberra mirrored South Melbourne's stacks behind the mill tactics employed against



Angelo Costanzo: Another match winning performance.

Vaso Da Gama, but the essential difference to that world event was that the Cosmos created more scoring chances than did the Melbourne marvels.

Dave Milin snapped the first shot on goal after 10 minutes, forcing an excellent save from City's towering goalkeeper Knezevic.

Kim rattled Canberra's crossbar in retaliation before Nick Sabljak displayed his determination to mark his 50th appearance for City with a goal.

Pelosi was next to threaten for the home side, but it was Kolpak who weaved past three opponents before bringing another fine stop from Knezevic.

Northern Spirit loan player Danny Watkins climaxed another Cosmos attacking break with a clever shot on the turn, but it was Veart who had the fans screaming with a drive which clipped the top of the Canberra crossbar.

Kolpak began the second half with a stinging blast that Knezevic gloved away one handed, but Kemp enjoyed his first goal thrill as he capitalised on a splendid attacking move involving Pelosi and Kim.

"I think instincts came into it," Kemp modestly attested.

Matic told the assembled post-match media representatives it was, "Not easy," dealing with Canberra's solidly organised defence.

"They dropped so many behind the ball and won a lot of balls in the air."

Sermanni holds hopes of a quick return for his injured players, Robbie Hooker and Alex Castro, but was less certain about the recovery powers of Michael Mustitano.

Matic houses similar optimism over Mori, who will have a scan on his hamstring, while the coach believes Talladira's right knee problem may only be a cartilage jam.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS SYDNEY OLYMPIC

By Greg Danvers

The Newcastle Breakers set a new club record when they beat competition leaders Sydney Olympic 3-2, in the rain, at Breakers Stadium on Friday night taking their unbeaten run to eight matches in front of 6907 fans.

Newcastle Breakers v Sydney Olympic matches continue to be the most consistent drawcard for fans at Breakers Stadium.

In the top ten crowd figures, since 1991, four Breakers-Olympic matches have drawn over 6000 spectators with 6907 in 1999-2000, 6807 in 1996-1996, 6759 in 1991-1992 and 6036 in 1992-1993.

The ground record of 8095 was set in 1991 against Adelaide City which may well go when Adelaide return to Newcastle on January 21.

Andy Roberts had the crowd cheering in the first minute when he combined with Newcastle's best Andy Harper down the middle, Harper squaring to Dodd and the shot just wide. A sign of just how the match was going to be played, hard and fast.

Competition leaders Sydney Olympic, chock full of stars and technically correct, Newcastle Breakers, the renowned street fighters with plenty of guts, then settled down to play an enthralling contest.

Gabriel Mendez, Pablo Cardozo and Ante Juric for Olympic where simply brilliant while the underrated Breakers, one to 14, were awesome finding the zip that was lacking five days before against Sydney United.

Breakers defender Glenn Moore headed home, his second in as many

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matches, in the 19th minute. A Glenn Sprod corner was punched away, to Moore, by Olympic keeper George Bouhoutsos at the far post. Moore headed home past several defenders to the delight of the crowd.

Mendez equalised 15 minutes later with a great right-foot shot, under an outstretched Bob Catlin, that clipped the far post and into the net.

Newcastle were left to play the entire second session one man down after Travis Dodd was given a red card for a studs up off the ball tackle on Scott Baillie.

The 10-man Breakers side out enthused and out scored Olympic in the second half with Todd McManus scoring from replacement midfielder Vasko Trpcovski's 70th minute corner. Juric deflected the ball to the feet of McManus who slammed the ball into the roof of the net.

Trpcovski was brought down, from behind, by Bouhoutsos a minute later. Harper had put Trpcovski through into the area with only the keeper to beat. Why Breeze didn't issue the Olympic keeper a red card for the resultant penalty and professional foul is still a mystery.

Harper went to the spot and easily converted his 95th NSL goal for the Breakers to lead 3-1 with 18 minutes to go.

Olympic threw everything at the Breakers but with a whiff of a win in the wind (and rain) the home side continued to dig deep and all where running that much harder to cover for the loss of Dodd.

"With a man down if we could have held it to 1-1 that would have been a huge boost for us," ABSW man-of-the-match Andy Harper said.

"It's just unthinkable really to come away with a win against a side of that quality with a man less."

A right-footed shot from substitute striker Dylan Macallister with nine minutes to go gave Olympic some hope of snatching a draw pegging back the lead to 3-2.

The Breakers held on to record their fourth consecutive home win in the club record eight-game undefeated run but are still unrespected by visiting coaches and teams.

"We beat ourselves today," Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina said.

With an extra man on the park and silky smooth skills that should have been enough to get over or snatch a draw but passion, desire, commitment and the will to play for each other proved, on Friday night, that 10 can beat 11.

"It is a pleasure to coach these blokes," Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey said.

"What they lack in ability they certainly make up for in passion and pride.

"They have great character and that's important in any sporting team. "There was a lot of good players out there tonight in a lot of areas including the blokes that came on off the bench."



Andy Harper: In everything.

NORTHERN SPIRIT SYDNEY UNITED

By Joe Russo

Northern Spirit returned to the winning circles on Friday night at North Sydney Oval, comprehensively outplaying Sydney United and winning by 3-0.

The star of the evening was the without any doubt Matthew Langdon. The pocket size dynamo was in everything and it certainly pleased the crowd of 11,772. I enjoyed sitting outside amongst them, for a change, as opposed to the usual enclosed media area.

Perhaps the inspiration for the Spirit was the earlier game between the Matildas and Sweden, however, the 0-2 loss by the Matildas was disappointing.

But back to the Spirit. Michael Cunico opened proceedings with a goal in the 16th minute - he latched onto a precise cross from Langdon and put his header into the back of the net past keeper Tolios.

Langdon was a constant menace for United down the left-hand side with his incisive runs and it proved just how much he was missed. His return to the squad came after a lengthy lay-off with injury.

Northern Spirit had two more golden opportunities to lead even

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further in the first half, however, Tony Perinich blasted his shot onto the post and David Seal placed his finish narrowly wide.

Sydney United coach David Ratcliffe must have been counting his blessings at half time as his team, trailing 0-1, was very fortunate indeed not to be even further behind.

In the 47th minute another Langdon cross was the catalyst for Spirit's second goal. David Seal, disappointing so far this season, turned it around when he outjumped the defence to head home Spirit's second for the evening.



Matthew Langdon: Star performance.

Northern Spirit fans were elated for the first time this year at North Sydney Oval - the atmosphere, despite the constant light rain, was 'electric'.

Trust a referee to spoil the party, as Simon Micallef booked an excited Seal for celebrating with the fans. Rules are rules, however, it certainly showed no 'spirit'.

In the 68th minute, it was finally Langdon that got his way and placed his name on the scorer's sheet.

He by-passed two defenders to fire in a goal that he will probably tell his grand children about. It was a beauty that was fired into the net from outside the penalty area.

He was replaced almost immediately by Simon Catanzaro, but at that point he had well and truly done enough.

Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold, who so far this season has had little to smile about, must have been elated with his team. They all played well and that is certainly no cliché in this case.

As for the hapless Sydney United, last year's Grand Final runners up, the realisation is surely that they are no more than a State League club in a National competition.

Their very likeable and talented coach David Ratcliffe, cannot work miracles with the playing stock at his disposal. United were totally outplayed by Spirit and they sit without any peer at the foot of the table.

TURN TO PAGE 32 FOR MATCH STATISTICS

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

BRISBANE STRIKERS MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

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0

By Glenn Davis

Melbourne Knights left Brisbane on the weekend with their tails firmly between their legs after the Strikers inflicted a 4-0 drubbing at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Knights, who are only a shadow of the former champion side of the 90's, caved in by conceding three goals in a seven-minute period just after half time.

Brisbane went to the interval leading 1-0, courtesy of an easy tap in from midfielder Jeromy Harris who finished off a perfect cross at the far post from Jade North.

The goal, which came deep into time added on, broke a frustrating deadlock which saw the Strikers' dominate play with seven chances to two in the opening 45 minute period.

The Strikers' second half fortunes were led by the league's leading scorer Paul Foster who scored a double and was unlucky not to have finished with more.



Paul Foster: Drought broken.

Foster, who was in the midst of a goal scoring drought, put the home side ahead 2-0 three minutes after the resumption with a thundering left-foot strike, which gave Knights' keeper Lupce Acevski no chance.

For Acevski, the night was not a happy affair, as he struggled against the Strikers' fearsome raids behind a brittle defence.

Brisbane maintained their second half resurgence and safely put the match out of the Knights' reach when midfielder Peter Grierson struck home his teams third in the 51st minute.

Grierson's goal was well taken as he found himself with his back to the Knights' goal before pivoting to rifle home a cross from Harris on the left.

The match was effectively over by the 55th minute when Foster

scored his second, lobbing a header over Acevski.

The Knights were never in the game at any stage in the second half and the only time Strikers' keeper Clint Bolton was tested came four minutes from the end.

Mindful of trying to keep a blank scoresheet, Bolton did his job perfectly when he was forced to dive late to deny the Knights' a consolation from a deadly Mark Silic free kick 20 metres out.

The victory continues the Strikers' New Year revival after a pre-Christmas period form slump that saw them slip from early season leaders to fifth following three successive losses.

The Strikers, however, have now picked themselves up again with two wins and a draw from their past three encounters and are firmly entrenched in the Top Six, just two points adrift of leaders Sydney Olympic.



Clint Bolton: Clean sheet.

PERTH GLORY GIPPSLAND FALCONS

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By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange believes his side has come of age despite an ungainly win against Gippsland Falcons at Perth Oval last Sunday which moves them into second place on the NSL standings ahead of Brisbane Strikers on a superior goal percentage.

"It was a hard victory but a very important victory, because one year ago we had a big slump and were unable to win games like today's" said Stange.

"We may have made hard work of our win after missing many chances especially in the first half, but there was not enough danger from Gippsland. They had one chance late in the game that brought a great save from Jason (Petkovic), but had we scored a second goal we would have killed them off.

"Now, we have a smell for the top of the table," he said with a large grin.

Stange blames the two-week long period of hot weather for his charges lack of vigour and looking flat. "I will give them tomorrow off and not see them until Tuesday afternoon," he said.

The team line-up required a late change after forward Alistair Edwards contracted a flu virus mid-week. With Soccerroo midfielder Kasey Wehrman sidelined for the first of a three-game suspension, Troy Halpin took over the baton and turned on a superb display of midfield mastery that consisted of quality deft touches, powerhouse shooting and pin-point distribution.

Glory lunged at their opponents from the opening whistle, with Scott Miller and Con Boutsianis both coming close, but it was teenage sensation Ivan Ergic who broke the deadlock in the 15th minute after some quality build-up play from Boutsianis, Halpin and the perfect bye-line ball from defender Jamie Harnwell.

It was the youngster's first goal since netting a double against Carlton in round nine last November.

The goal rattled the Falcons and they could very well have capitulated had Glory stamped their authority immediately following the goal. As it was, the visitors were allowed to maintain a threatening presence while Perth stuttered and stammered around the opposition's goal.



Con Boutsianis: Another great performance.

Boutsianis came perilously close to scoring the goal of the season in the 24th minute, but his breathtaking volley from all of 25 metres was well saved by Bojo Jevdjovic.

Ten minutes later a Halpin free-kick was headed over the top by Ergic and Halpin himself was left with just the 'keeper to beat four minutes into added time, but failed to find a team-mate on the end of a short centre.

Glory maintained their pressure in the second-half, but it was the same old story of not being able to find the back of the net.

Rob Trajkovski came closest in the 56th minute with a strike that crashed into the cross-bar.

This was Hamilton Thorps third full game for Glory and the former Adelaide Sharks defender emerged as one of his teams best on ground.

His marking duel with Juan Nilo was one of the features of the game. The only time Gippsland's pacy flank-runner was able to threaten the Glory goal came in the 89th minute when he was left with only Petkovic to beat.

The tall custodian however, made a superb almost point-blank save low to his left. Earlier, Nilo looked to have been bundled over in the area by Edgar, but referee Con Diomis gave the Falcons winger a yellow card for diving.

Coach Jeff Hopkins let Diomis know what he thought of the decision at the end of the game as the officials left the pitch under police guard.

ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ROUND 14

Sydney Olympic v Perth Glory

3-Naven (PG)
2-Cardozo (SO)
1-Petkovic (PG)

Auckland v Canberra Cosmos

3-Silva (NB)
2-Middleby (SU)
1-Konstantinou (NB)

ROUND 15

Carlton v Auckland Kingz

3-Ngata (AK)
2-Batty (AK)
1-Marth (CC)

Adelaide v Canberra Cosmos

3-Costanzo (AC)
2-Kolpak (CC)
1-Kemp (AC)

Newcastle v Sydney Olympic

3-Harper (NB)
2-Catlin (NB)
1-Mendez (SO)

Northern Spirit v Sydney United

3-Langdon (NS)
2-Seal (NS)
1-Cunico (NS)

Brisbane v Melbourne Knights

3-Foster (B)
2-North (B)
1-Grierson (B)

Perth Glory v Gippsland Falcons

3-Halpin (PG)
2-Thorp (PG)
1-Marcina (GF)

PROGRESSIVE POINTS

AFTER ROUND 15

Andy Harper	(Newcastle Breakers)	19
Pablo Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	17
Andrew Crews	(Parramatta Power)	14
Angelo Costanzo	(Adelaide City Force)	13
Mehmet Durakovic	(Gippsland Falcons)	13
Michael Curcija	(South Melbourne)	12
Con Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	11
John Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	10
Gabriel Mendez	(Sydney Olympic)	10
Lubo Lapsansky	(Carlton SC)	10

TURN TO PAGE 32 FOR MATCH STATISTICS

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

— ROUND 1 —

Demons snatch victory

**Eastern Suburbs 1
Blacktown City 2**

By Julian Murphy

An injury time goal to Blacktown striker John Bennet saw the demons snatch victory over a spirited Eastern Suburbs at David Phillips Field.

East may have finished the exciting game without a point but they won many admirers, including the opposition coach.

Many people believe the Wanderers will be the big improvers for the 2000 season and if the performance against last year's grand final winners is any indication, they could well be right.

The cool and clear summer conditions were conducive to good football and it didn't take long for both sides to pick up the pace.

Both sides played attacking football and created chances. Both Greco and Wanderers keeper Costa Anastasiadis did well to keep game scoreless.

As half time approached it was the home side who moved up a gear and they were unlucky not to go to the break a goal up. In the 40th minute Ben Delghan made a good run up the right flank, found Craig Sharpley in the box with his back to goal, who then turned and chipped the ball to

new striker Jimmy Aschner.

Aschner's header eluded Greco but not the post and was hastily cleared by the Demons defence.

East continued their impressive showing early in the second half and were duly awarded with a goal in the 50th minute. Matt Shepherd broke clear in the centre of the field before finding Steve McCombe on the right.

McCombe's pinpoint cross found Aaron Holst, on as a substitute only a minute earlier, unmarked at the far post to head past Greco.

The goal sparked Blacktown into action and on the hour, after many raids on goal, they levelled the game. Paul Dee was brought down on the edge of the area and he sent his free-kick across the face of goal, past two Wanderers defenders to find a lurking Browne.

Anastasiadis could only help Browne's low, diving header into the net.

With the score 1-1 the game became an open, end to end affair with both sides pushing for a winner. Blacktown enjoyed more possession and opportunities in this period but East weren't without chances.

During the tense closing moments, East's Sharpley and Blacktown's Matt Lowe provided the crowd with a moment of humour.

After wrestling each other to the ground when fiercely contesting a ball in front of the grandstand, both jumped to their feet and frantically searched for the ball for a few seconds, not realising it had trickled over the sideline.



Deep into injury time Demons substitute Naoki Imai ran straight at the defence of his old club before pushing the ball to Bennet who drilled a low shot into the bottom left hand corner sealing the match.

Blacktown coach Brian Brown was a very happy man after the game. "I was extremely happy with the players commitment after going a goal down and I always felt we could nick a winner towards the end. It's great to take a win from here."

"East are a good side and a lot of sides are going to come here and struggle this year."

John Calleja, Eastern Suburbs coach, was naturally disappointed but not despondent over the loss.

"I feel sorry for the boys, the change room was a bit like a morgue after the game. We managed to stick to our game plan of harrasing Blacktown for the first hour but when we went a goal up we didn't know what to do with ourselves and we began to struggle with the ball."

"Full credit to Blacktown, they always keep coming at us for the full 90 minutes."

SCORERS

Leichhardt Tigers 6 (Karavatakis 4' & 59', Galluzzo 30' & 31', Talceviski 75', Bruni 93')	Canterbury Marrickville Berries 3 (Ilic 64' & 66', Kotsopoulos 84')
Sutherland Sharks 2 (Merralls 5', Karanasos 25')	Fairfield Bulls 1 (Larocca 65')
St George Saints 2 (Bakis 64' & 77')	Central Coast Coasties 3 (Roberts 14', Peatey 73', Preston 86')
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0	Bankstown City Lions 0
Penrith Panthers 1 (Astane 77')	Parramatta Eagles 0
Macarthur Rams 1 (Williams 60')	Eastern Suburbs 1 (Holst 50')
Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 (Long 48' pen)	Blacktown City Demons 2 (Brown 59', Bennett 89')

RESULTS

	1st	U/21	U/18
Fairfield v Central Coast	1-3	1-0	3-1
Sutherland v Leichhardt	2-6	2-2	2-3
St George v Bonnyrigg WE	2-0	0-0	0-4
Penrith v Macarthur Rams	1-1	3-1	1-1
Manly Warringah v Cant-M'ville	1-3	4-2	2-0
Bankstown v Parramatta	0-0	1-3	0-3
Eastern Suburbs v Blacktown City	1-2	1-1	1-3

Fiery stalemate at Bankstown

**Bankstown City 0
Parramatta 0**

By Dylan O'Neill

BANKSTOWN City and Parramatta played out a 0-0 draw in their opening match of the 2000 Super League season at Jenson Park on Sunday evening.

The match, although scoreless, was still entertaining for the crowd with chances coming to both sides.

Parramatta almost had the perfect start to the match in the 20th minute when Nikolce Joseski headed into the back of the net only to be called back for off side.

In the second stanza the game opened up and both teams had several chances to break the deadlock.

Bankstown looked the better side and dominated the possession but failed to turn constant pressure into goals.

Their best chance came when young striker Goce Tropski who made a break up field and had three unmarked men on the inside but showed his inexperience by opting to go himself.

After the match Bankstown coach Lubo Jancev said he was happy with the team as they tried their best.

"They are a young team with not much experience, they nearly scored in the second half but they just needed more experience to make the right decisions."

Parramatta coach Roberto Viera agreed that with more experience both sides could have won.

"We came here looking for a win and we tried to play an attacking style of football because the team really wanted to beat this side."

"It was a fair result."

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Leichhardt Tigers	1	1	0	0	6	2	4	3
Canterbury Marrickville	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
Central Coast Coasties	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
St George Saints	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Blacktown City Demons	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Penrith Panthers	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Macarthur Rams	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Parramatta Eagles	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bankstown City Lions	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Eastern Suburbs	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Fairfield Bulls	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Manly Warringah Dolphins	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Sutherland Sharks	1	0	0	1	2	6	-4	0

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

Super League

Saturday 15 January 2000

Kick-off times - 7.00pm (1st Grade), 5.00pm (21s), 3.00pm (18s)

Blacktown City v Bankstown City
Gabbie Stadium

Sutherland v Fairfield
Seymour Shaw Park

Macarthur v St George
Bensley Road Sports Complex

Bonnyrigg v Leichhardt
Serbian Centre

Sunday 16 January 2000

Kick-off times - 7.00pm (1st Grade), 5.00pm (21s), 3.00pm (18s)

Canterbury Marrickville v Penrith
Henson Park

Parramatta Eagles v Manly Warringah
Melita Stadium

Eastern Suburbs v Central Coast
David Phillips Field

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National Youth League 1999/2000

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 15)

WEDNESDAY 5 JANUARY 2000 (Rd 13)

Sydney United 1 ... Newcastle Breakers Colts 0
(Jermen 83)

FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2000

Newcastle Breakers 0 ... Sydney Olympic 1
(Doumanis 89 pen)

SATURDAY 8 JANUARY 2000

Sydney United Colts 1 ... A.C.T.A.S. 1
(Gardiner 7) (Kemp 83)

Northern Spirit 6 ... Sydney United 1
(Wearne 8, Kane 10, Kathel 46, (Lo Proto 49)

R Griffiths 63, Olic 70 pen, MacRae 85)

Q.A.S. 6 ... Sydney Olympic Academy 2
(McKain 22, Stevens 43, (Tirovski 3, Sarmonikas 44 pen)

Drake 48, 84, Walsh 54, Miner 80)

Northern Spirit Colts 0 ... Marconi Stallions Colts 2
(Peros 67, Screpis 70)

SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 2000

Newcastle Breakers Colts ...1 ... Wollongong Wolves 1
(Wheeler 38 pen) (Lahanas 2)

Marconi Stallions 5 ... Parramatta Power 2
(Z Babic 13, 25 85, M Babic 20, Karl 73) (Thompson 17, Dixon 40)

A.I.S. v Wollongong Wolves Colts

(To be played on Sunday 19 March 2000)

Bye - N.S.W.I.S.

	P	W	D	Bye	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Olympic	13	10	3	1	0	38	8	33
Parramatta Power	14	10	2	1	2	37	12	32
Q.A.S.	16	10	1	1	5	47	25	31
A.I.S.	13	9	2	1	2	51	14	29
Northern Spirit	13	8	2	1	3	32	18	26
Newcastle Breakers	15	9	1	0	5	27	17	25
Marconi Stallions	13	8	0	1	5	24	21	24
A.C.T.A.S.	14	5	5	1	4	23	28	20
Sydney United	12	6	1	1	5	20	24	19
N.S.W.I.S.	13	5	3	2	5	23	15	18
Sydney Olympic Academy	14	5	0	1	9	31	53	15
Newcastle Breakers Colts	16	4	2	1	10	19	32	14
Marconi Stallions Colts	14	3	4	1	7	23	33	13
Wollongong Wolves	13	3	2	1	8	13	27	11
Northern Spirit Colts	13	3	2	1	8	14	32	11
Sydney United Colts	15	2	3	0	10	14	37	9
Wollongong Wolves Colts	11	0	1	1	10	7	47	1

The Newcastle Breakers hosted Sydney Olympic on a wet Friday night at Breakers Stadium and suffered the same fate as their Colts team two nights previously. An 89th minute penalty scored by Joey Anthony Doumanis gave Olympic the three points and first place on the league ladder.

Four matches were played on Saturday despite the constant threat of rain in Sydney. At the Sydney United Sports Centre the Sydney United Colts entertained the A.C.T.A.S and in a tough encounter the teams could not be separated after 90 minutes. The hosts took the lead in the

seventh minute through David Gardiner but an 83rd minute equaliser by Stephen Kemp ensured that the lads from Canberra remain in the top half of the table.

Sydney United were thumped 6-1 by a rampant Northern Spirit outfit at Christie Park. After leading 2-0 at the break, the Spirit massacred their depleted opponents in the second half.

Paul Wearne, Derryk Kane, Ross Kathel, Ryan Griffiths, Elvis Olic, from the penalty spot, and Todd MacRae, recorded singles. Alan Lo Proto replied for Sydney United as he continues his march up the leading goalscorers chart. He now has nine goals for the season.

Also at Christie Park, two goals in three minutes sealed a 2-0 victory for the Marconi Stallions Colts over the Northern Spirit Colts. The deadlock wasn't broken until the 67th minute when John Peros found the back of the net. Before the Spirit could recover from this setback the Stallions struck again courtesy of a Chris Screpis strike after 70 minutes.

Going into the break all square the Sydney Olympic Academy must have been confident of leaving Metway Suncorp Stadium with at least a point but a four-goal second half by the Q.A.S. ended any thoughts of this. In their two matches this season the teams have produced a total of 18 goals. However, the bad news for the Olympians is that the Q.A.S. have scored 14 of those.

Sash Tirovski opened the scoring in the third minute for the visitors but Jonathon McKain levelled the scores in the 22nd minute. It wasn't until the 43rd minute that a Ben Stevens strike put the Q.A.S. into the lead. Before the celebrations had ended, an Anthony Sarmonikas penalty restored the equilibrium.

The hosts scored twice within 10 minutes of the restart courtesy of goals by Lawrence Drake and Sean Walsh. Two further goals in the last 10 minutes ended the match as a contest. Russell Miner grabbing his 13th of the season and Drake bagging his second for the match. The 6-2 result elevates the Q.A.S. to third spot in the league.

The Newcastle Breakers Colts hosted the Wollongong Wolves at Breakers Stadium on Sunday afternoon. The Wolves have struggled this season and despite leading after just two minutes, they could not go on with it and had to settle for a 1-1 draw. The scorer for the Wolves was Peter Lahanas who hasn't been able to command a regular first team spot since his arrival from Greece. A penalty in the 38th minute gave the Breakers the opportunity to level the scores, which Paul Wheeler kindly accepted.

A match involving several National Soccer League stars kept the supporters at Marconi Stadium entertained with Zeljko Babic bagging a hat-trick. The Marconi Stallions and Parramatta Power were strengthened with the inclusion of the players after the NSL fixture was postponed due to the Four Nation tournament involving the Olyroos in Adelaide.

For the Stallions, Mark and Zeljko Babic, Dominic Longo and Harry Karl added experience to a young and enthusiastic team whilst the Power used the services of Richard Plesa, Walter Ardone and Lachlan Campbell.

Making his return after suspension, Babic showed he has lost nothing during his stint on the sidelines with goals in the 13th, 25th and 85th minutes. Mark also found the net after 20 minutes as did Harry Karl after 73 minutes for the Stallions.

Matthew Thompson scored for the Power in the 17th minute and Scott Dixon netted in the 40th minute.

The 5-2 win by the Stallions sees the Power drop to second place on the league ladder after two months on top.

ROUND 16

SATURDAY 15 JANUARY 2000

Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves Colts
(Christie Park - 4.30pm)

Northern Spirit Colts v Parramatta Power
(Christie Park - 6.30pm)

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 2000

Sydney United v Sydney Olympic

(Sydney United Sports Centre - 4.00pm)

Sydney Olympic Academy v Sydney United Colts
(Wentworth Park - 4.00pm)

Wollongong Wolves v Marconi Stallions Colts
(Brandon Park - 7.15pm)

Marconi Stallions v A.C.T.A.S. (Marconi Stadium - 8.15pm)

A.I.S. v Q.A.S. (AIS Soccer Field - 7.00pm)

(To be played on Sunday 27 February 2000)

Bye - Newcastle Breakers

LEADING SCORERS

Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	13
Elias Demourtzidis	A.I.S.	11
Allan Lo Proto	Sydney United	9
Grant Last	A.I.S.	7
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	7
Damian Pisano	Sydney Olympic	7
Franco Parisi	Sydney Olympic Academy	7

ABSW GETS IT RIGHT

Recently, ABSW exposed Marconi Colts' youngster Christopher Screpis as an up-and-coming junior.

On the weekend young Chris finally got his chance and grasped it with both hands.

With the match against Northern Spirit Colts locked at 0-0 at the break, assistant coach Deano Severin looking after the squad in the absence of coach Sam D'Allessandro, took a punt on the youngster and sent him on at half time.

He took control in the centre of the pitch and was the instigator of Marconi's opening goal in the 67th minute.

Fittingly it was Screpis himself who three minutes later won the ball in his own half, beat a man and then ran into



Chris Screpis

space. He knocked the ball wide on the left to Adrian Papaluca who took it to the byline and cut it back for Screpis to tuck away.

Screpis continued to dominate the game in the middle of the park and with performances like this one and a few more opportunities he'll change the course of many a match.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

LEADING SCORERS

Anthony Pelikan	Melbourne Knights	10
Andrew Mashoian	South Melbourne	9
Ace Stojcevski	Carlton	7
David Martin	Albury Wodonga	7
Angelo Motsiopoulou	Carlton	6
Deniz Ekici	Carlton	6
Naum Sekulovski	VIS	6
Xhezair Sulemani	Bulleen Inter	5
Josip Loncaric	VIS	5
Mark Tsiorlas	VIS	5

NEXT ROUND

WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2000

Fawcner Blues v South Melbourne
(CB Smith Reserve, 6.30pm)

SATURDAY 15 JANUARY 2000

Gippsland Falcons v Preston Lions
(Falcons Stadium, 4pm)

VIS v South Dandenong
(Grange Reserve, 4pm)

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 2000

Melbourne Knights v Melbourne Knights Academy
(Knights Stadium, 3.30pm)

Bulleen Inter v Carlton
(Mahoneys Reserve, 4pm)

Albury Wodonga v Bye

JUNIOR SOCCER

★ ★ EXCLUSIVE TO ABSW ★ ★

Australian Schoolboys End Of A Successful Era

The years 1995 to 1999 have seen a major increase in the number of matches, including full internationals, that the Australian Schoolboys team have played.

During this five year period the Schoolboys have played 31 international matches for a record of 14 wins, 8 draws and 9 losses. Highly successful by anyone's standards.

Chris James, National Secretary, rates the best performance from an Australian team as being the 4-3 win against Ireland during the highly successful UK tour last December.

Down 1-2 until the 88th minute, the team went on to win the match in injury time by 4-3.

Results of all matches follow :

1999	United Kingdom and Ireland	
v Boys Clubs of Wales	Won 3-0	
v Welsh Colleges	Won 3-0	
v English Colleges	Drew 3-3	
v Northern Ireland Schools	Drew 1-1	
v Ireland Schools	Won 4-3	
Home Series		
v New Zealand	Won 2-0	Lost 1-2
New Zealand, Fiji		
v Auckland U19s	Won 4-0	Won 3-1
v New Zealand U23s	Lost 1-4	Lost 1-2
v Fiji U17s	Won 2-0	Won 3-2
1998	Home Series	
v New Zealand Schools	Lost 0-3	Won 2-1
v Welsh Colleges	Lost 0-2	
1997	New Zealand, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Chile	
v New Zealand Schoolboys	Won 3-1	Won 2-0
v Uruguay U17s	Lost 1-5	Lost 1-2
v Argentina U17s	Lost 2-3	
1996	England, Belgium, Wales, Rep. of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Italy	
v Welsh Colleges	Drew 1-1	
v Welsh Schools	Won 5-1	
v Rep. of Ireland Schools	Drew 1-1	
v Northern Ireland Schools	Lost 0-4	
Home Series		
v New Zealand Schools	Drew 0-0	Drew 0-0
1995	Singapore, Malaysia	
v Singapore U19s	Won 3-1	
v Malaysia U19s	Drew 0-0	Drew 2-2
Home Series		

First Tour of the New Millenium

The Australian Schoolboys team will undertake their first tour of the new millenium. They flew out to Fiji yesterday (Monday) to play four internation-

als during their 11-day tour of the South Pacific island nation.

Internationals will be played against Fiji's Under 17, Under 18 and Under 20 teams.

This is the first ever tour consisting entirely of international fixtures to be undertaken by Australian Schools Soccer.

The squad is:

1	Nathan Minter	18 year old goalkeeper from Cavendish Rd SHS Qld. Plays for Wynnum. Nickname is 'Mints'.
2	Nick Budin	17 year old striker from Christian Brothers College SA. Plays for Adelaide City. Nickname is 'Budin'.
3	James Kemp	18 year old midfielder from Merewether SHS NSW. Plays for Newcastle Breakers. Nickname is 'Jumbo'.
4	Nathan Woodbridge	17 year old defender from Elanora SHS Qld. Plays for Gold Coast City. Nickname is 'Woodie'.
5	Luke Morgan	18 year old defender from Marist College ACT. Plays for Gunghalin Juventus. Nickname is 'Morgo'.
6	Luca Lucchesi	18 year old striker from Blackfriars Priory, SA. Plays for Croydon. Nickname is 'Lucky'.
7	John Fotiadis	18 year old midfielder from Epping Boys High NSW. Plays for St George. Nickname is 'Wog'.
8	Drew Oberle	18 year old midfielder from Cavendish Rd SHS, Qld. Plays for Mt Gravatt. Nickname is ('squad is still working on it').
9	Thien Vinh	18 year old striker from Darwin High School, NT. Plays for Sanderson. Nickname is 'Vinh'.
10	Orhan Dincer	17 year old striker from J.J. Cahill High, NSW. Plays for Northern Spirit. Nickname is 'Ori'.
11	Matthew Low	18 year old striker from Palm-Beach Currumbin SHS Qld. Plays for Gold Coast. Nickname is 'Lowy'.
12	Mark Lipman	18 year old midfielder from Turai College WA. Plays for Freemantle City. Nickname is 'Snake'.
14	Nathan Thompson	18 year old defender from Elanora Qld. Plays for Gold Coast City. Nickname is 'Thomo'.
15	Michael Gleeson	17 year old midfielder from Ivanhoe Grammar Vic. Plays for Preston. Nickname is 'Glees'.
16	Sam Banks	16 year old striker from Casuarina Sec NT. Plays for Mararra Dragons. Nickname is 'Banksie'.
18	Michael Negropontis	18 year old goalkeeper from Palm-Beach Currumbin SHS Qld. Plays for Burliegh. Nickname is 'Negs'.

Alan Pradella
Dave Storey

Tour Leader (Qld)
Manager (NSW)

Brendon Fotheringham
Richard Beazley

Coach (NSW)
Sports Trainer (ACT)

Further Inquiries to Richard Beazley on 0418 473 614.

FAMOUS PHOTOS

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SEE PAGE 21

SOCCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

MATILDAS BELOW PAR IN AUSTRALIA CUP OPENER

SWEDEN 2
(Hanna Ljungberg 15, Cecilia Sandell 26)
AUSTRALIA 0

The Matildas made a disappointing start in the Australia Cup last Friday night, performing way below par for a 2-0 loss to Sweden at North Sydney Oval.

Australia appeared unusually hesitant and lacking in shape and structure in the strong windy conditions. For a team who these days focuses on keeping possession and building from the back, there was little to cheer about.

Seventh-ranked Sweden were a controlled and efficient unit with good movement in attack and an impressive defensive line.

Sweden soon took advantage of Australia's disorganised state, taking the lead in the 15th minute. A neat ball was lobbed forward with neither of two defenders taking charge of the bouncing ball, allowing striker Hanna Ljungberg in for a well-executed chip over the keeper from 16 metres.

The Matildas responded immediately and created two openings, Sharon Black forcing a good save from Swedish keeper



Sharon Black: Helped create openings for Australia.

Ulrika Karlsson. Black then sent in an enticing freekick from the right, the ball flying past the far post just out of reach of a queue of Australian attackers.

But Sweden were too strong and soon doubled their lead, again a defensive error assisting their cause. A near-post Malin Andersson corner was challenged for by Swede Cecilia Sandell and ricocheted into the net off a sea of defenders' legs, Sandell credited with the goal.

Sweden never surrendered the upper hand although the second half fell away

in terms of composure as heavy rain added to the already difficult conditions. Frustrated with their first half showing, the Matildas at least fought harder after the break. Neither team was able to create any clear chances on goal.

"We got what we deserved," said National Coach Chris Tanzey in the post-match press conference. "Footballwise, we only played to 30 percent of our ability. We never played the way we've been working in training and reverted back to the old ways when we came under

a bit of pressure. We learnt a lot of things tonight.

"For 45 minutes there was only one team, we were a step behind the play. And in the second half, we tried harder, but we didn't attack the ball."

After a couple of days' reflection on the match, Tanzey made the following observations.

"We built it up for ourselves — the players' expectations of themselves is a reflection of how well they've been training for the last few months.

"They were angry with themselves afterwards at maybe letting the occasion get to them. It was their first home game for a year and they had really wanted to do well.

"It's unusual to lose only 2-0 to such a top team and be so emotionally upset. The disappointment that day and the day after was bigger than at the World Cup. That shows we've set the standards so much higher and our passion for the game is much greater.

"In the plain light of day, we know we played poorly and were nowhere near our best. Yet besides the two goals we handed them, Sweden never created another chance. This is only our third international together. We know that soon we'll be able to match them. We know we've got a massive opportunity to improve."



Chris Tanzey: "We got what we deserved."

Australia: Wheeler, Salisbury, Starr, Alagich, Wainwright (Golebiowski 79), Black (Garriock 69), Forman, Wilson, Duus (Small 46), Boyd (Hughes 63), Murray.

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AUSTRALIA CUP SCHEDULE

Monday 10 January — Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne
5.30pm USA v Sweden
7.30pm Australia v Czech Republic

Thursday 13 January — Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
5.30pm Sweden v Czech Republic
7.30pm Australia v USA

**CAN YOU STUMP
THE EDITOR?
SEE PAGE 21**

USA PROVE DOUBTERS WRONG

USA 8
(Jenny Streiffer 14, 65m Susan Bush 17, Nikki Serlenga 39, Sherrill Kester 50, 57, Christie Welsh 74, Veronica Zepeda 83)

CZECH REPUBLIC 1
(Iveta Dudova 85)

In Melbourne last Friday night, the USA Team steamrolled the Czech Republic at Olympic Park. The young Americans dispelled any theories of them being a below standard side as they ran away with an emphatic 8-1 win against their hapless opponents.

The US outclassed the Czechs in every department, led by impressive performances from attackers Mandy Clemens and Christie Welsh, and midfielders Aleisha Cramer and Aly Wagner. Jenny Streiffer opened the US account in the 14th minute followed by a Susan Bush strike three minutes later.

After a three-goal lead at the break, they continued to hit the target at will during the second half. Six players scored, including a double from both Streiffer and Sherrill Kester. The Czechs managed to post a consolation goal with five minutes remaining through Iveta Dudova.

FAMOUS PHOTOS



▲ Member of Knights' training staff Algis Kriauza seen pictured with Bobby Robsyn at a training facility in Eindhoven in April last year.

◀ It's not too often we get to see two world sporting greats respecting each other. In the back of the net or right over the stumps — it's a great photo of Don Bradman and Pelé back in 1990.

STUMP THE EDITOR

QUESTION from: Robert Forrai
Roseville, NSW

Hungary was runner up at two World Cup's (1938 & 1954). From each of these finals one Hungarian player later became a well known soccer coach in Australia. One of them was Ferenc Puskas. Who was the other Player?

Robert, the other player was Julius Polgar. He spent most of that time coaching APIA Leichhardt but also spent time at Prague, St. George and Canterbury Marrickville.

QUESTION from:

S. Mandarinini
Nunawading, VIC

Leonidas da Silva was the Brazilian star of the 1938 World Cup. Why was he famous?

Leonidas da Silva was famous for inventing the bicycle kick.

QUESTION from: R. Melor
Bondi, NSW

Which was the first team to show numbers on their shirts?

I can't say I'm 100 percent about this one but I do believe the first match with both teams showing numbers was the 1933 FA Cup Final between Everton and Manchester City. Everton won 3-0.

QUESTION from:

Brett Alexander
Palm Beach, NSW

In 1915 a particular FA Cup final was labelled the "Khaki Final" because it was during the First World War. Who played in this final and what was the score?

Sheffield United beat Chelsea 3-0. In those days there was no Wembley so this match was played at Old Trafford.

THIS WEEKS

SCOREBOARD



EDITOR 4
ABSW READERS 0

THE RULES

Questions will be answered within two editions of ABSW due to print deadlines. If they are not answered within two editions then I am stumped.

Due to fairness and lack of space please limit your suggestions to ONE question per reader per edition.

Important

Please make all questions as clear as possible. Ambiguous or deliberately misleading questions will not be tolerated.

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ITALIAN SERIE A

BARI 3 VENEZIA 0

Bari quickly brought Venezia back to earth after last week's 2-0 victory over league leaders Lazio.

Simone Perrotta opened the scoring with an overhead kick in the 27th minute before Nigerian Hugo Enyinnaya and Swede Daniel Andersson made sure of victory with two goals in the last six minutes.

CAGLIARI 3 PIACENZA 0

Cagliari's season-long wait for a league victory finally ended thanks to Belgian Luis Oliveira's 49th minute strike — his first since returning to the club from Fiorentina in September — and two goals in the last two minutes from Cameroon forward Patrick Mboma.

Piacenza capitulated after ex-Roma midfielder Carmine Gautieri was sent off in the 88th.

FIorentina 2 Inter Milan 1

Inter Milan had Christian Vieri dismissed before slipping to their third successive away defeat. Gabriel Batistuta headed the home side into a deserved halftime lead after Angelo Peruzzi badly misjudged Enrico Chiesa's 38th minute cross.

Substitute Alvaro Recoba equalised direct from a 71st minute freekick and the match looked destined for a draw until Vieri and Tomas Repka were both shown red cards for an 89th minute off-the-ball clash. Immediately afterwards, defender Daniele Adani was left unmarked at a corner and turned in Batistuta's flick-on.

LAZIO 3 BOLOGNA 1

When Sinisa Mihajlovic missed with a 25th minute penalty and Swede Kennet Andersson (51) cancelled out Marcelo Salas' 42nd minute opener, Lazio looked like spurning the chance to regain top spot.

But late goals from Pavel Nedved (76) and Fabrizio Ravanelli (90), on his first appearance at the Olympic stadium, finally allowed Lazio to forget last week's defeat at Venezia.

Nedved was sent off in the 83rd for Lazio and Michele Paramatti joined him on the sidelines in the 90th.

AC MILAN 2 AS ROMA 2

Fabio Capello's first return to the club where he won four league titles almost brought Roma their first win at the San Siro in 13 years.

In the eighth minute, Marco Delvecchio was on hand to give the visitors the lead after Vincenzo Montella hit the post.

German Oliver Bierhoff levelled before halftime but, in the 57th, Montella beat the home side's off-side trap to restore Roma's advantage. Milan manager Alberto Zaccheroni sent on Spaniard Jose Mari for his San Siro debut and the Spaniard responded by



Andrei Shevchenko: Battled hard against Roma. The match finished 2-2.

equalising with his first touch of the ball in the 68th minute.

PARMA 1 JUVENTUS 1

Hernan Crespo's superb last minute equaliser denied Juventus a victory that had looked certain once Alessandro Del Piero had converted a penalty and Parma had two players sent off.

Defender Stefano Torrisi was dismissed for the foul on Filippo Inzaghi which gave away the 69th minute penalty and, eight minutes later, Dino Baggio was also shown a red card for a crude foul on Gianluca Zambrotta. But Crespo's equaliser saved nine-man Parma and left Juve to rue some dreadful finishing.

PERUGIA 0 UDINESE 5

Perugia conceded five goals for the second league match in succession as Udinese ran riot at the Renato Curi stadium. The visitors were four-up in the opening 45 minutes through Andrea Sottil (12), Thomas Manfredini (25), Stefano Fiore (40) and an own-goal from Alessandro Calori (19).

Dane Martin Jorgensen completed Perugia's humiliation with a fifth in the 74th.

TORINO 1 LECCE 2

Torino slipped to their sixth successive league defeat against Lecce. Cristiano Lucarelli put the visitors ahead in the 65th minute only for Marco Ferrante to level with a dubious 80th minute penalty.

Just when the home side looked like ending their miserable run, ex-Valencia striker Lucarelli broke clear to grab victory with his eighth of the season.

VERONA 1 REGGINA 1

Reggina looked set for their second successive league victory after Italy under 21 playmaker Andrea Pirlo's 38th minute free-kick hit the bar and rebounded into the net off French goalkeeper Sebastien Frey's shoulders.



Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi celebrate the goal against Parma. The match finished 1-1.

But Brazilian striker Adailton converted a 75th minute penalty to salvage a point for Verona. Reggina finished with 10-men after Ezio Brevi was sent off after conceding the penalty.



Parma's Hernan Crespo celebrates with his coach Alberto Malesani after his last minute equaliser against Juventus.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

The Serie A has returned with two recent rounds including the special mid-week round that was played on January 6, which is a public holiday in Italy, and the news keeps coming thick and fast from the world's premier soccer league.

Andrea Silenzi, Torino's striker, is about to return to the playing arena for Torino after suffering a broken arm. 'So what' I hear you ask? And, who is Andrea Silenzi anyway?

Well, Silenzi is your average Serie A striker and that is certainly no big deal. His claim to fame however, is that he was the very first Italian player to play in England's Premier League some five years ago now.

He was transferred from Torino to Nottingham Forest and was an absolute disaster! He hardly got a run and after the season was hastily returned. Luckily Premier League clubs had faith in a number of his countrymen (Viali, Zola, Di Canio, Ravanelli, Di Matteo, Casiraghi, Carbone et al) and they proved themselves in the Premier League.

Rumours continue to circulate the Italian capital city of Rome about the imminent arrival of Rivaldo.

Prior to Christmas it was said to be Roma interested in his services and now it is their bitter city rivals Lazio, who are said to be chasing the very talented Brazilian from Barcelona.

Lazio has a lot of 'lira' in their bank account after off-loading Christian Vieri to Inter in the off-season and their President, Sergio Cragnotti, is well known to be desperately after a Championship, especially since his club last won one back in 1974.

As they say, 'where there's smoke, there's fire'.

Inter recently acquired the services of Clarence Seedorf in their eternal search for a Championship. However, someone should remind their billionaire oil-magnate President, Massimo Moratti, that money ain't always the solution.

Didn't he only two seasons ago buy Ronaldo and in the last off-season, Vieri? Both for world record fees at the time as well.

Curiosity: Inter's last Championship dates back to 1989 when Giovanni Trapattoni was their coach and clubs were only allowed three foreign players per team. Inter's three were Juergen Klinsmann, Lothar Matthaus and Andreas Brehme. Three key Germans in their World Cup victory in 1990.

And finally back to Rome. The arrival, or apparent arrival, of Nakata from Perugia to Roma seems to have caused a rift between Roma coach Fabio Capello and club captain, Francesco Totti.

Nakata is a talented and flamboyant Japanese player that was keenly sought a few seasons ago by Manchester United - not for his footballing ability, but rather his marketability, in other words, the selling of Manchester United products in the lucrative Japanese market.

Roma President Franco Sensi is no slouch when it comes to business either.

Clearly he sees the benefit of having a Japanese player in his team, from the point of view being able to sell his product to the Japanese.

While Nakata is a talented footballer, he is certainly no Totti. The very popular club captain is a favourite with the fans, media and Italian national coach, Dino Zoff.

So why would Totti recently say in the Italian press that, he is prepared to leave Roma if Capello prefers Nakata? Unlikely, that a coach with Capello's record and ability, would swap Nakata for Totti. If he did, he certainly wouldn't be a popular man in Rome.



Fabrizio Ravarelli: On the scoresheet on his return to Serie A.



WORLD

ENGLISH FA CUP



Wayne Collins: Fulham's two goal hero.

F.A. CUP THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

GILLINGHAM 2 WALSALL 1

Due to the weather in Kent, this third round replay had been delayed, but for Peter Taylor's side it was well worth waiting for as they won through to a Fourth Round tie with Bradford City.

Two goals in the space of four minutes had the team in the lead before Bjarni Larusson made it 1-1.

The winner came in the 100th minute, John Hodge the hero for the home side.

OXFORD UNITED 1 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 3

Nottingham Forest gave David Platt a timely boost by coming from behind to beat Oxford 3-1 and book a place in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

Two goals in two minutes from Chris Bart-Williams changed the face of a game after Oxford had hit the lead on 72 through Paul Powell. Alan Roges wrapped up the game for Forest one minute from time.



Wayne Allison: Celebrates his goal against Sunderland.

F.A CUP FOURTH ROUND

ARSENAL 0 LEICESTER CITY 0

Arsenal failed to beat Leicester for the first time in four encounters after they were held to a goalless draw in their FA Cup fourth round tie at Highbury.

Leicester had Darren Eadie sent-off for a second bookable offence 10 minutes from time but the Gunners failed to find an opening past the side they had already beaten 2-1 and 3-0 this season. They will now have to travel to Filbert Street and do it all over again in a replay on Wednesday January 19.

MANCHESTER CITY 2 LEEDS UNITED 5

Twenty minutes into this match, the huge Maine Road crowd had already been treated to four goals, Shaun Goater opened the scoring for City before Norwegian youngster Eirik Bakke made it 1-1.

City had regained the lead on 11 minutes through Ian Bishop before Leeds took control scoring the next four goals including a double to Harry Kewell, Alan Smith and Lee Bowyer.

ASTON VILLA 1 SOUTHAMPTON 0

Gareth Southgate, the man Villa fans are now calling 'the bus' scored his third goal in two games to ensure Aston Villa's progression to the fifth round in the FA Cup.

The result was no more than they deserved, dominating play and unlucky not to have won this one with a bigger margin, Southgate's 20th minute goal enough to get Villa home.

CHARLTON 1 QUEENS PARK RANGERS 0

Charlie MacDonald, the former QPR schoolboy, popped up in the 68th minute for Charlton on his debut to knock Gerry Francis side out of the FA Cup.

The likeable youngster turned in a left-side cross to send Alan Curbishley's men into the last 16.

COVENTRY CITY 3 BURNLEY 0

Burnley played right into Coventry's hands as the Premiership side averted a shock thanks to a Youssef Chippo goal in each half and Noel Whelan's curling shot with his first touch in the game as



Harry Kewell: Celebrates a double against Manchester City.

Coventry moved into the fifth round with a 3-0 win.

EVERTON 2 BIRMINGHAM 0

Everton needed two penalties to get past First Division Birmingham at Goodison Park, when their incessant attacking finally broke the red barrier that had done so much sterling work to try to earn a replay.

Birmingham keeper Ian Bennett kept his side in the game with some blinding saves but his team's hard work was undone late on after giving away two penalties which were converted by David Unsworth.

FULHAM 3 WIMBLEDON 0

Fulham dismissed their London rivals with little trouble thanks to a double strike from Wayne Collins and a goal from Steve Finnan.

Collins put the home side into the lead on 22 minutes and the Dons were in a state of shock as Steve Finnan made it 2-0. Wimbledon had their chances but the game was buried in the 77th minute as Collins made it 3-0.

GRIMSBY 0 BOLTON 2

Bolton contested the first Wembley final in 1923 and they might still reach the last one at the Old Empire Stadium after a 2-0 away win at Grimsby Town.

And Grimsby will be fed up of the sight of Bo Hansen, the Bolton striker who took his tally of goals against them to three this season with a 54th minute goal coming after Eidur Gudjohnsen had given them the lead on 33 minutes.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 4 SHEFFIELD UNITED 1

The magpies won this game on the back of some sloppy defending and set pieces. Newcastle's first corners in each half produced goals. The vital second goal came after Speed's header was bundled over by Nikos Dabizas on 47 minutes.

Ten minutes later, Speed and Pistone combined to find an unmarked Duncan Ferguson who killed off the game.

PLYMOUTH 0 PRESTON 3

Two own goals allowed Preston to sweep home 3-0 away at Plymouth as Plymouth defenders Wayne O'Sullivan and Jon Beswetherick gave the visitors two goals, one on either side of the break. Graham Alexander converted from the spot on the hour in between.

SHEFF WED 1 WOLVERHAMPTON 1

It all looked as though Wednesday were headed for the fifth round, Niclas Alexandersson giving Sheffield Wednesday's FA Cup hopes a lift with a brilliant first-half goal.

But controversy followed later in the game when Ludovic Pollet was awarded a 68th minute goal after his header appeared to hit the inside of the post and bounce out.

TRANMERE 1 SUNDERLAND 0

Tranmere's dumping of yet another Premiership club out of a Cup competition has been shrouded with contention with Sunderland furious that Tranmere played with 11 men after Clint Hill had been sent off in injury time.

The controversy overshadowed Wayne Allison's 25th minute winner as home goalkeeper John Achterberg produced a wonderful display between the sticks as the absence of Niall Quinn hit Sunderland hard.

WREXHAM 1 CAMBRIDGE UNITED 2

This battle of the Second Division strugglers was to give one of them the chance to reach the fifth round, Cambridge surviving a tough encounter at Wrexham.

Trevor Benjamin gave the away side the lead on 15 before an equaliser to Karl Connolly on halftime. Seven minutes after the break, Martin Butler scored what turned out to be the winner.

FA CUP FIFTH ROUND

Draw for the fifth round of the English F.A. Cup made on Sunday:
Gillingham or Bradford v Sheffield Wednesday or Wolverhampton
Everton v Preston North End
Liverpool or Blackburn v Newcastle
Coventry v Charlton
Cambridge United v Bolton Wanderers
Aston Villa v Leeds United
Fulham v Tranmere Rovers
Chelsea or Nottingham Forest v Arsenal or Leicester
Matches to be played over weekend of January 29-30



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



GROUP A

Porto (Portugal)
Hertha Berlin (Germany)
Barcelona (Spain)
Sparta Prague (Czech Republic)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Hertha Berlin 1 Barcelona 1
Michalke 33 Luis Enrique 14
Sparta Prague 0 Porto 2
Drulovic 77, Jandel 84

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Porto 1 Hertha Berlin 0
Drulovic 78
Barcelona 5 Sparta Prague 0
Kluivert 44, 63
Luis Enrique 45, 76
Guardiola 59

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Barcelona v Porto
Hertha Berlin v Sparta Prague

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Porto v Barcelona
Sparta Prague v Hertha Berlin

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Barcelona v Hertha Berlin
Porto v Sparta Prague

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Hertha Berlin v Porto
Sparta Prague v Barcelona

Table

Porto	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Hertha Berlin	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sparta Prague	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

GROUP B

Bordeaux (France)
Fiorentina (Italy)
Manchester United (England)
Valencia (Spain)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Fiorentina 2 Manchester Utd 0
Batistuta 25, Balbo 52
Valencia 3 Bordeaux 0
Farinos 60, Ilie 66,
Gonzalez 88

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bordeaux 0 Fiorentina 0
Manchester Utd 3 Valencia 0
Keane 38, Solskjaer 47
Scholes 69

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Manchester Utd v Bordeaux
Fiorentina v Valencia

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Bordeaux v Manchester Utd
Valencia v Fiorentina

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Manchester Utd v Fiorentina
Bordeaux v Valencia

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Fiorentina v Bordeaux
Valencia v Manchester Utd

Table

Fiorentina	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Manchester Utd	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Valencia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Bordeaux	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

GROUP C

Bayern Munich (Germany)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)
Real Madrid (Spain)
Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Dynamo Kiev 1 Real Madrid 2
Rebrov 85pen Morientes 17, Raul 48
Rosenborg 1 Bayern Munich 1
Skammelsrud 47 Jancker 10

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Bayern Munich 2 Dynamo Kiev 1
Jancker 6, Sergio 80 Rebrov 50
Real Madrid 3 Rosenborg 1
Raul 17, Savio 85 Carew 47
Carlos 90

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Real Madrid v Bayern Munich
Dynamo Kiev v Rosenborg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Bayern Munich v Real Madrid
Rosenborg v Dynamo Kiev

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Real Madrid v Dynamo Kiev
Bayern Munich v Rosenborg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Dynamo Kiev v Bayern Munich
Rosenborg v Real Madrid

Table

Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Rosenborg	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Dynamo Kiev	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

GROUP D

Feyenoord (Netherlands)
Olympique Marseille (France)
Lazio (Italy)
Chelsea (England)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Marseille 0 Lazio 2
Stankovic 64,
Conceicao 78
Chelsea 3 Feyenoord 1
Babayaro 45 Julio Cruz 90
Tore Flo 67, 86

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Feyenoord 3 Marseille 0
Cruz 72, 90
Bosvelt 83

Lazio 0 Chelsea 0

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Lazio v Feyenoord
Marseille v Chelsea

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Feyenoord v Lazio
Chelsea v Marseille

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Lazio v Marseille
Feyenoord v Chelsea

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Marseille v Feyenoord
Chelsea v Lazio

Table

Chelsea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Lazio	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Feyenoord	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Marseille	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

PSV CHIEF SEES EURO LEAGUE BY 2002

PSV Eindhoven chairman Harry van Raaij believes his club will quit the Dutch championship to play in a 16-team European league by 2002.

Van Raaij was reported as saying he expected the Champions League to remain the supreme European tournament, with teams divided into a number of divisions.

Three to four Dutch clubs — Ajax Amsterdam, Feyenoord,

PSV and possibly Vitesse Arnhem — might make the grade, he said, playing against sides from Belgium, Scotland, Portugal and Greece.

Van Raaij said the top Dutch clubs broadly agreed with the idea and had already spoken to other European sides.

"I would expect a meeting within half a year where we can reach further agreement," Van Raaij was quoted as saying.

He said he considered the

English, French, German, Italian and Spanish leagues were strong enough to continue.

But van Raaij said he believed the top teams from the smaller leagues would only survive with the formation of a Europe-wide competition.

"We're sinking slowly. It's not a question of wanting (to join a European league). We have to. The Dutch first division in its current form is out of date."

FIFA PLANS VETERANS TOURNAMENT

World soccer's governing body FIFA wants to persuade the likes of Pelé and Bobby Charlton to play in a world veterans' tournament.

FIFA is investigating a World Cup for players who are over 35 years old, said vice president Antonio Matarrese.

"My concern is to provide greater opportunities for those

older players who feel that they are not, at the moment, receiving sufficient attention from the game's authorities," Matarrese wrote in the December issue of FIFA Magazine.

Matarrese said many countries organised leagues for players over 35, but the opportunity to compete on an international level was lacking.

A FIFA spokesman said the first match featuring stars of the past could take as many as five years to materialise.

He said FIFA's executive committee was interested in the veterans' cup and was planning a study to determine costs.



Pelé: Persuasion required.

QUARTER FINALS

First Leg — April 5
Second Leg — April 19

SEMI-FINALS

First Leg — May 3
Second Leg — May 10

FINAL

Wednesday, May 24
At Stade de France



FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until January 22)



1	Brazil	69	Honduras	137	St Kitts & Nevis
2	Czech Republic	70	Estonia	138	Panama
3	France	71=	Burkina Faso	139	Tahiti
4	Spain	71=	Mali	140	Benin
5	Germany	73	Guatemala	141	St Vincent/Gr
6	Argentina	74	Gabon	142	Ethiopia
7	Norway	75	Bosnia-Herz.	143	Maldives
8	Romania	76	Nigeria	144	Solomon Islands
9	Croatia	77=	Cuba	145=	Andorra
10	Mexico	77=	Iraq	145=	Rwanda
11	Denmark	79	Senegal	147=	Antigua & Barbuda
12	England	80	Namibia	147=	Cayman Islands
13	Yugoslavia	81	Canada	149=	Dominica
14	Italy	82	Kuwait	149=	San Marino
15	Portugal	83	Albania	151=	Gambia
16	Sweden	84	Northern Ireland	151=	Saint Lucia
17	Paraguay	85	Armenia	153	Sri Lanka
18	Russia	86	Algeria	154	Lesotho
19	Netherlands	87	Togo	155	Dominican Rep.
20	Scotland	88	China PR	156	Laos
21	Slovakia	89	AUSTRALIA	157	Nepal
22	United States	89	Indonesia	158	Yemen
23	Chile	91	Guinea	159	Kyrgyzstan
24	Morocco	92	Oman	160	Mauritania
25	Colombia	93	Moldova	161	British Virgin Is.
26	Israel	94	Congo	162	Surinam
26	Ukraine	95=	Belarus	163=	Bermuda
28	Austria	95=	El Salvador	163=	Niger
29	Turkey	97	Azerbaijan	165	Botswana
30	South Africa	98	Wales	166	Chad
31	Tunisia	99	Haiti	167	Neth. Antilles
32	Poland	100	New Zealand	168=	Cambodia
33	Belgium	101	Mozambique	168=	Eritrea
34	Greece	102	Vietnam	170	Palestine
35	Republic of Ireland	103	Kenya	171	Guyana
36	Zambia	104	Singapore	172	Korea DPR
37	Bulgaria	105	Liberia	173	Guinea-Bissau
38	Egypt	106	India	174	Chinese Taipei
38	Saudi Arabia	107	Qatar	175	C. African Rep.
40	Slovenia	108	Uganda	176	Macao
41	Jamaica	109	Syria	177=	Cape Verde Is.
42	Peru	110	Venezuela	177=	Tonga
43	Iceland	111	Lebanon	179=	Pakistan
43	Trinidad & Tobago	112	Faroe Islands	179=	Samoa
45	Hungary	113	Barbados	181	Philippines
45	Uruguay	114	Malawi	182	Cook Islands
47	Switzerland	115	Jordan	183	PNG
48	Ghana	116	Malta	184	Vanuatu
48	Iran	117	Malaysia	185	Brunei Darussalam
50	Lithuania	118	Mauritius	186	Puerto Rico
51	Korea Republic	119	Tajikistan	187	Sao Tome e Principe
52	Angola	120	Sierra Leone	188	Equatorial Guinea
53	Cote d'Ivoire	121	Grenada	189	Bahamas
53	UAE Emirates	122	Hong Kong	190	Belize
55	Uzbekistan	123=	Kazakhstan	191	Aruba
56	Finland	123=	Luxembourg	192	Seychelles
57	Japan	125	Liechtenstein	193	Nicaragua
58	Cameroon	126	Myanmar	194	US Virgin Islands
59	Congo DR (Zaire)	127=	Swaziland	195	Djibouti
60	Thailand	127=	Tanzania	196	Turks & Caicos Islands
61	Bolivia	129	Turkmenistan	197	Somalia
62	Latvia	130=	Bangladesh	198	Mongolia
63	Cyprus	130=	Libya	198	American Samoa
64	Costa Rica	132	Sudan	200=	Guam
65	Ecuador	133	Burundi	200=	Montserrat
66	Georgia	134	Madagascar	202	Anguilla
67	Zimbabwe	135	Fiji		
68	FYR Macedonia	136	Bahrain		

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

ANELKA FINALLY SCORES

Nicolas Anelka's first official goal for Real Madrid, a lucky strike that ricocheted off his foot and looped into the net, was greeted with something short of elation last week.

If the Frenchman was hoping for a huge wave of relief back in Madrid following his long-awaited first goal since a \$37 million move from Arsenal, he would have been hugely disappointed.

"Anelka scored the first goal of the match and the tournament, but in a style so ridiculous that he didn't even celebrate," it was noted in Madrid after the goal in Real Madrid's 3-1 world club championship win over Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr in Rio de Janeiro.



Nicolas Anelka: Off the mark.

Other reports were more generous, with some columnists looking forward to a change of fortune for the Frenchman.

"Anelka showed that he can be an important player for Real in the future," wrote a prominent Spanish journalist.

"Anelka's luck has changed for the better. It's a new year and there's new hope for Anelka."

The suspicion remained, however, that the headline writers simply realised that they couldn't top their efforts following Anelka's goal in an unofficial charity match on December 30.

"Anelka scores," and "Millennium bug takes effect!"

DUBLIN OUT FOR SEASON

Aston Villa's leading striker Dion Dublin is unlikely to play again this season after

Gerald Sibon during a match against Sheffield Wednesday on December 18.

an operation on his broken neck, his premier league club manager John Gregory said last week.

"I think it is fair to say that we are not expecting him to play again this season," said Gregory.

"It will be three months, mid-March at the earliest, before he can even think about putting on his training kit again."

The England forward suffered the injury in a collision with



He has been wearing a neck brace ever since and has been unable to lie down.

Former Coventry captain Dublin has scored 13 times for Villa this season and his absence is a blow for Gregory whose future at the club has been called into question after a dismal few months.

Gregory added: "He's got a massive scar across his neck and he can't do anything



Dion Dublin: Broken neck.

MURDOCH SECURES GERMAN SOCCER T.V. RIGHTS

International media magnate Rupert Murdoch has agreed to sell the German television rights to European Champions' League soccer for the next three seasons.

TM3, controlled by Murdoch's News Corp Ltd, sold on the rights to commercial network RTL and pay-TV channel Premiere World for a combined 200 million marks (\$104 million) a season, it was revealed in a press release quoting a TM3 official and a businessman close to RTL.

None of the parties were immediately available for comment.

TM3, a small, women's interest channel based in Munich, stunned previous rights-holder RTL — and the soccer-watching public — by snapping up the rights to the present 1999-2000 and three subsequent seasons for around 200 million marks a season.

"Without my cooperation this will not happen," said entrepreneur

Herbert Kloiber.

He added that his Tele-Muenchen group had a choice of buying Murdoch out of his two-thirds stake in TM3 or selling its one-third stake to News Corp.



A further element of the package was CLT-Ufa's purchase, announced last month, of News Corp's 49.9 per cent stake in the German commercial entertainment channel Vox.

Added to an existing stake, that gave CLT-Ufa control of Vox.

Luxembourg-based CLT-Ufa is a 50-50 joint venture between German media group Bertelsmann and Luxembourg holding company Audiofina.

RTL would pay "something more than 100 million marks" per season for the right to broadcast Champions' League games on Wednesdays.

Premiere World, controlled by Munich-based media entrepreneur Leo Kirch and in which Murdoch has an interest, would pay around 100 million marks for the rights to games played on Tuesdays.

TM3 has had ambitions to become a third force in the German commercial television market alongside Bertelsmann-linked channels RTL, RTL2, Super RTL and Vox and Kirch-backed channels Sat-1, ProSieben and Kabel 1. State-run channels also account for a large share of viewing figures.



Latin American Player of the Year



JAVIER SAVIOLA

(Argentina & River Plate)



By Mario Etchart

Javier Pedro Saviola, a young Argentine footballer was named "Latin American Player of 1999" by the prestigious Uruguayan newspaper "El Pais" (The Country).

The brilliant 17-year-old striker from River Plate of Argentina, for many experts the new Maradona, and for others probably better, at his age, than the former Argentine national team captain, was chosen by a panel of 160 soccer journalists around the world, winning comfortably over Paraguayan defender

Francisco Arce, while Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert finished third.

Saviola, whose idols are Brazilian star Rivaldo and former Uruguayan international Enzo Francescoli, won the Argentine soccer league first phase with River Plate, and was the highest scorer of the tournament.

His brilliant skills, vision and incredible work rate earned a place in the Argentine U/23 national team that will play the South American Olympic qualifiers for Sydney 2000, to be held in Brazil at the end of this month.

One of his dreams is to play in Europe, and his favourite team is Italian Serie A side AS Roma.



Javier Saviola: A champion at 17.

THE TOP TEN

1.	Javier Saviola	Argentina	55
2.	Francisco Arce	Paraguay	45
3.	Jose Luis Chilavert	Paraguay	36
4.	Ivan Cordoba	Colombia	33
5.	Alex	Brazil	28
6.	Pablo Aimar	Argentina	27
7.	Marcos Vaupeta	Brazil	23
8.	Freddy Rincon	Colombia	22
9.	Ronaldino	Brazil	22
10.	Walter Samuel	Argentina	22

FA CUP FOURTH ROUND

TRANMERE v SUNDERLAND

CUP CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

The first F.A. Cup competition not to feature the defending champions could enter further uncharted waters following the controversial end to Tranmere Rovers' 1-0 fourth round victory over Sunderland on Saturday.

The first division club should be celebrating their fourth victory over a premier league club in this season's two English cup competitions but instead face an anxious wait to see if the F.A. take action over a late breach of the laws.

Wayne Allison's 25th-minute volley looked to have been enough for the side forever in the shadow of Merseyside neighbours Liverpool and Everton as the game moved into injury time.

But then defender Clint Hill was given his second yellow card for a trip and sent off.

However, before Sunderland could take the resulting free kick Tranmere sent on Stephen Frail as a substitute and then played with 11 players when they should have had 10.

A minute later they realised their mistake and amid chaotic scenes took Andy Parkinson off. After a long discussion between the officials

the game went ahead for its final few seconds.

Tranmere boss John Aldridge said the problem was the result of a mistake by the fourth official.

"In all the confusion that was going on the fourth official has put up number six," said the former Liverpool striker.

"So Clint Hill has come off, he's been sent off and Stephen Frail went on. For 15 seconds or so, we seemed to have 11 men on the pitch because Andy Parkinson never came off. But then again, the board didn't show his number.

"It's ridiculous now in this day and age. You are supposed to fill in a piece of paper to put your substitution. It's crazy really. We always knew the new rules would cause problems and it happened on that occasion.

"But it wasn't our fault. It has nothing to do with the players, it's

the last minute of the game, we're winning 1-0 and I think Sunderland have just got to take it on the chin and we are into the fifth round."

THE F.A. CUP



Sunderland manager Peter Reid was reluctant to be drawn into controversy, saying: "If I start talking too much about it, it will cost me a few quid, and I haven't got a lot. It's something for others to decide.

"It was a breach of the rules and we'll see what the F.A. have to say about it. It was a major mix-up and a problem but the man you've got to ask is the referee.

"We're talking about officials when we should be talking about football but somebody made a major error out there.

"But first and foremost Tranmere have worked really hard and got a goal against us and we haven't been able to get one back."

Referee Rob Harris, whose chang-

ing room was guarded by three policemen after the game, refused to comment on the incident but has already faxed a report to the F.A.

Earlier this season West Ham United and Aston Villa were ordered to replay a League Cup quarter-final because West Ham brought on a late substitute who had previously played for Gillingham in the same competition.

West Ham, who won the match on a penalty shoot-out, argued that the player, Emmanuel Omoyinmi, featured for only a few minutes of the game and had no bearing on the result.

However, the F.A. ordered a replay and could take similar action against Tranmere.

Should that happen to Tranmere it would be a terrible blow for a club who are already in the semifinals of the League Cup despite having had to sell most of their best players to pay the club's debts.

And it adds further controversy to a competition that is without last year's winners Manchester United — in Brazil for the World Club Championship — and which saw record low attendances after moving the third round to December from its traditional spot in early January.

KLUIVERT GETS FIVE-MATCH BAN

Barcelona's Dutch international striker Patrick Kluivert was handed a five-match suspension last week following an off-the-ball incident in a game against Rayo Vallecano in December.

Kluivert was caught on video apparently throwing a punch at Rayo defender Jesus Cota during the match on December 22.

It is the second hefty suspension for Kluivert this season.

He was banned for four games for comments made to the referee during a league match against Real Madrid. Barcelona are expected to appeal against the decision.



Patrick Kluivert: Banned.

BAGGIO TO STAY

Former Italy captain Roberto Baggio, who has been at odds with coach Marcello Lippi, said last week he would stay at Inter Milan at least until the end of the season.

"I'm flattered that a lot of clubs have expressed an interest in me but I'll finish the season here at Inter," Baggio told reporters as the Italian soccer winter transfer window opened.

"I hope I'll have the opportunity to play soon and then at the end of the season we'll see."

Baggio accused Lippi last month of going back

on his word by leaving him on the bench for most of this season.

The 1993 World Player of the Year has made only six appearances for Inter since the summer and has played less than three hours of first team football.

Lippi responded angrily to the accusation and said Baggio was free to leave if he wished.

Baggio, who has been linked with several clubs in Italy and France, was widely expected to take Lippi at his word this month when the transfer market reopened.



Roberto Baggio: Staying till the season's end.



Robbie Fowler: Still under an injury cloud.

MORE SURGERY FOR FOWLER

England striker Robbie Fowler is set for a third scan on his troublesome ankle after admitting last week he was still unable to play without pain.

The Liverpool forward needs to return to hospital after playing just 48 minutes of soccer since undergoing minor surgery in October to remove a spur bone on his ankle joint.

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier said: "Robbie will have to have another scan as we need to know more."

Fowler, who scored his 150th goal for Liverpool last month as a substitute against Wimbledon, was at the centre of newspaper speculation that he was a target for Manchester United. The stories were later denied by Houllier.



MARADONA IN HOSPITAL

Soccer icon Diego Maradona was admitted to an intensive care unit in a jet-set Uruguayan resort last week for hypertension and irregular heart-beat, doctors and his manager said.

"This has nothing to do with drugs," his manager Guillermo Coppola said

in response to questions about the Argentine star's history of cocaine use.

Dr Waldemar Correa, director of the Cantegril Clinic in the South Atlantic resort town of Punta del Este, said there were "multiple" causes for Maradona's condition.

"The initial prognosis is favourable," Correa said. "He is currently being monitored and observed. Should there be no complications, he should have a short stay."

Former President Carlos Menem, who has always been close to Maradona, paid the soccer star a brief visit.

"He's not in a coma. He's okay," he said, dismissing reports that Maradona was unconscious. "I'm leaving at peace because my friend is all right."

Correa said the causes of Maradona's illness were "multiple," without giving further details.

"One out of 10 people in the world suffers from hypertension," he said, deflecting questions from reporters about drug use.

Maradona, 39, captained the team that won the 1986 World Cup final against Germany. But his career went into decline after he was suspended for

15 months for testing positive for cocaine while playing for Italy's Napoli in 1991.

Coppola, who was acquitted last year on charges of cocaine possession, denied Maradona had suffered an overdose.

"He was driving his own truck. There weren't any ambulances. Everyone knows that Maradona has hypertension, it's happened to him before," Coppola said.

Maximo Rocha, police chief for the province of Maldonado where the clinic is located, was quoted as saying there was nothing to indicate Maradona's medical problems were related to drug abuse.

The world-renowned soccer hero regularly spends part of his summers in Punta del Este, which is about 135 km east of Montevideo. The resort attracts Argentina's top movie stars, models and personalities every summer.

Overweight and a regular on gossip shows and tabloid magazine covers, Maradona has been considering returning to professional soccer in the role of coach at the second-division All Boys team.



Diego Maradona: Hypertension sufferer.

FACELIFT FOR OLD TRAFFORD

European champions Manchester United are set to dig up and re-lay their troublesome Old Trafford pitch for the third time in six months.

The bulldozers moved in last week and groundstaff will work around the clock to complete the surface before United's return from the World Club Championship in Brazil.

It will be the sixth new pitch laid at Old Trafford since 1998 and comes just six weeks after the last surface was replaced. That pitch cut up badly in United's last home Champions League game on December 8 against Valencia.

Torrential rain over the Christmas period turned the playing surface into a quagmire, prompting manager Alex Ferguson to call for urgent action to be taken.

Bill Hurley's Australian SPORTSBOOK

Phone: (02) 9897 0088 (see page 7 for more details)

EURO 2000

Holland	\$5.00
Italy	\$6.50
France	\$8.00
Spain	\$7.00
Germany	\$9.00
England	\$13.00
Czech Republic	\$17.00
Sweden	\$17.00
Yugoslavia	\$26.00
Norway	\$26.00
Portugal	\$26.00
Romania	\$26.00
Belgium	\$26.00
Denmark	\$51.00
Turkey	\$67.00
Slovenia	\$126.00

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barcelona	\$3.75
Lazio	\$4.00
Man United	\$5.50
Chelsea	\$8.00
Real Madrid	\$10.00
Bayern Munich	\$12.00
Fiorentina	\$15.00
Valencia	\$21.00
Porto	\$26.00
Bordeaux	\$81.00
Feyenoord	\$101.00
Hertha	\$101.00
Marseille	\$151.00
Dynamo Kiev	\$151.00
Sparta Prague	\$501.00

UEFA CUP

Juventus	\$5.00
Parma	\$7.50
Arsenal	\$8.00
Roma	\$8.00
Leeds	\$12.00
Dep La Coruna	\$15.00
Borussia Dortmund	\$15.00
Monaco	\$17.00
Celta Vigo	\$17.00
Atletico Madrid	\$21.00
Real Mallorca	\$21.00
Udinese	\$26.00
Galatasaray	\$26.00
Werder Bremen	\$34.00
Lens	\$41.00
Slavia Prague	\$51.00

ITALIAN SERIE A

Lazio	\$2.25
Juventus	\$3.50
Inter Milan	\$6.00
Parma	\$8.00
AC Milan	\$9.00
Roma	\$11.00
Fiorentina	\$67.00

SPANISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Barcelona	\$2.25
Dep La Coruna	\$2.35
Celta Vigo	\$8.00
Real Madrid	\$13.00
Valencia	\$15.00
Real Zaragoza	\$21.00
Real Mallorca	\$41.00
Athletic Bilbao	\$67.00
Vallecano	\$81.00
Real Betis	\$81.00
Atletico Madrid	\$101.00



USA WELCOMES IRAN

The United States last week welcomed a visit by the Iranian national soccer team, saying it was a "great example" of unofficial exchanges Washington is encouraging with the Islamic state.

State Department spokesman James Rubin, speaking to reporters during Israeli-Syrian peace talks here, confirmed that the United States had relaxed some immigration controls normally imposed on visiting Iranians.

The 21-member soccer squad left Teheran for Frankfurt with a flight to Chicago.

"The United States welcomes and facilitates private exchanges between U.S. and Iranian citizens, and we believe the visit of the Iranian soccer team is a great example of that," Rubin said.

Rubin confirmed U.S. authorities had exempted the squad from fingerprinting at the airport, a measure imposed on visitors from Iran, Sudan and other states Washington says have links with international terrorism.

"We did arrange for the Immigration and Naturalisation Service to issue a waiver for the team and members of the delegation, which will exempt them from the usual fingerprinting procedure," Rubin said.

"The INS will, however, handle these visitors at their point of entry in Chicago," he said.

The Iranians are due to play a friendly game against the U.S.

team on Jan. 16 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

It will be a rematch of the 1998 World Cup encounter in France. Iran won 2-1.

That politically charged match, for which both teams later received the FIFA Fair Play Award, was the first top-level sporting contact between the two countries since the 1979 revolution that toppled the U.S.-backed Shah.

In the last year President Bill Clinton

has made a number of overtures to Iran, hoping the 1997 election of reformist President Mohammad Khatami will help improve relations.

Asked to reconcile U.S. charges that of Iranian involvement in terrorism with its encouragement for sporting and academic links, Rubin said: "We've always said we have concerns about Iranian support for terrorism. In the meantime, we have also said we support a civilisational dialogue."



Iran: Welcome to America.



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EURO 2000

KEEGAN VISITS VENUE

England coach Kevin Keegan paid a flying visit last week to Charleroi in southern Belgium, venue for England's key Euro 2000 group game against Germany.

Keegan spent 30 minutes inspecting the 30,000-seater Stade du Pays de Charleroi and talked to UEFA and Club Charleroi officials about their plans for the match on June 17.

"I like the stadium, its a very English stadium, very unusual," he said.



"I don't think in all the world I've ever played football in a stadium quite like this. It has a lot of character. The fans are close to the pitch which is good."

The ground just meets the tournament's minimum capacity criteria and there are con-



Kevin Keegan: Trip to Belgium.

cerns this normally sleepy town could be overrun by English and German fans.

To add to the organisers' woes the kick-off is not until late evening, there are no scheduled flights leaving after the game and local accommodation is in short supply.

A security review is in progress.

European champions Germany and England have been drawn in Group A with Romania and Portugal. Two qualify for the quarter-finals.

MAN.UNITED MEAN BUSINESS IN BRAZIL

Manchester United coach Alex Ferguson made it clear last week that his team were taking the World Club Championship seriously.

Asked if United were merely bowing to pressure from the British government to take part in the new tournament, Ferguson replied: "I don't know where you got that impression. We have decided to come out here, so we have to win."

"We had so much hassle about coming that it's important for us to do the job properly. It's a matter of pride."

He also admitted the heat and humidity of the Brazilian summer might force his side to play at a slower pace than normal.

"We realise we will have to play differently there's no doubt about that," he said.



Alex Ferguson: Wants to win World Club Championship.



WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Toilet Door to unhinge Vasco bid

Vasco da Gama have spared no expense in their attempt to win the inaugural World Club Championship, yet all their efforts could be undone by a toilet door.

Vasco's striking duo Edmundo and Romario, who fell out over the aforementioned door in 1998, are still far from united just two days before the team's opening match against Australia's South Melbourne.

Although both players insist they have flushed away previous differences, they have yet to play together, or even be seen together in public, since Romario joined the Brazilian club in December.



Romario: Conflict.

The two used to be chums until Romario opened a theme bar called the "Cafe do Gol."

The novelties included the doors of the toilets on which were painted huge cartoons of soccer personalities.

One of the doors featured a cartoon of Edmundo sitting on a deflated ball. The next cubicle displayed a cartoon of a model with whom he had a child before separating in acrimonious circumstances.

An angry Edmundo asked for the paintings to be removed, Romario refused and the two fell out.

At the time, Romario was playing for Flamengo and Edmundo was in Italy with Fiorentina so the incident merely caused a few smiles. Now, however, they are being asked to come together to lead Vasco's challenge in FIFA's newest competition.

Vasco, founded by Rio's Portuguese community and nicknamed "Dried Cod" after that country's national dish, have planned their whole season around the tournament.

In the last month they have signed former Brazil defender Junior Baiano from Palmeiras, veteran right-back Jorginho, like Romario a member of the 1994 World Cup-winning team, from Sao Paulo as well as midfielders Valber and Alexandre Torres.

With so many new arrivals, a huge question mark hangs over Vasco's team understanding as a whole. But nowhere causes more concern than the attack.

When Romario joined Vasco in December, he insisted there was no bad feeling with a player who, like him, began his career at the club.

"I have not come here to take anybody's space, particularly Edmundo's, because I know that his space is large and has been conquered with a lot of work," he said.

However, for various reasons the two never trained together and, a week later, Edmundo pulled a thigh muscle which has left him out of the action since.

The pair played together for the first



Edmundo: Explosive.

time in the opener against South Melbourne last week.

There is no doubt that, on their day, either player can win a match single-handed.

Romario, at 33 still one of his country's most gifted players, led Brazil to their World Cup victory in 1994 while Edmundo's explosive acceleration resembles Ronaldo at his best.

Both players, however, are prone to shooting themselves in their gifted feet. Romario's love of a good night out has led him into conflicts with coaches at Flamengo, Barcelona and Valencia as well as two national team coaches. Edmundo has collected more than a dozen red cards in his explosive career.

He once spent several days under hotel arrest in Ecuador after smashing a television camera during a Libertadores Cup match.

Last year, he spent a night on the run from Brazilian police after being ordered to serve a jail sentence for his part in a 1995 car crash. Edmundo eventually handed himself in, spent one night behind bars and was then released pending an appeal.

RIVALDO DROPPED AGAIN

Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal dropped European Player of the Year Rivaldo for the second successive game last week and insisted the team's style would not be altered to accommodate the Brazilian forward.

Rivaldo was not included in the 18-man Barcelona squad that played host to Real Sociedad in the Nou Camp stadium last week after he maintained his opposition to playing on the left wing.

"My objective is to get Rivaldo back in the team but that depends on him. The door is open for him to return to the side," van Gaal said.

"The position of Rivaldo is the same but I've been talking with him and the situation here has changed. We have a system of playing and Rivaldo does not

have the characteristics to play as a midfielder," he added.

The Dutchman refused to elaborate. "I'm not going to say any more because I don't want anything I might say to prejudice the situation. However, we are not going to change because one individual player does not understand my philosophy," van Gaal commented.

Rivaldo's continued battle of wills with van Gaal will give encouragement to those clubs who hope to poach the Brazilian before his contract with the Catalan club expires in June 2003.

Manchester United's approaches were rebuffed during the summer but the European champions are still interested in signing Rivaldo. Several Italian clubs have also been reported to be interested in the player.



Rivaldo: On the outer.

NORTHERN IRELAND NAME MCILROY

Former Manchester United midfielder Sammy McIlroy was named manager of Northern Ireland last week in succession to Lawrie McMenemy.

McIlroy, 45, has stepped down as boss of third divi-

sion Macclesfield to accept a two-year contract.

He played for Manchester United in the 1970s and won 88 caps for Northern Ireland.



McMenemy, in charge since February 1998, was offered a contract to stay on as manager despite Northern Ireland's failure to

qualify for Euro 2000. But the 63-year-old turned it down and quit on November 30 when his contract ran out.

Leicester City manager Martin O'Neill ruled himself out of the job because he could not do it full time.

TV GUIDE

* All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

Tuesday January 11
FA Cup Fourth Round
Game Four (LIVE)
Fox Sports
6am - 9.30am

FA Cup Fourth Round
Game Four (Replay)
Fox Sports
4.30pm - 6.30pm

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm - 4.30pm

Wednesday January 12
Italian Serie A: Football Extra
Optus Vision (ESPN)
7.30pm - 8.30pm

FA Cup Highlights
Fox Sports
7.30pm - 8.30pm

European Soccer Show
10.30pm - 11.30pm
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)

FIFA Club World Championships
SBS TV
Manchester United v South Melbourne
Eastern States 7.00am

Thursday January 13
Soccer Central
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
9pm - 10pm

Spanish Soccer
Teams TBA
Fox Sports
9.30pm - 11.30pm

European Champions League Program
SBS TV
10pm

Friday January 14
Spanish Soccer
Fox Sports 2
10am - 12pm

Western Union Soccer
Fox Sports
5pm - 5.30pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

National Soccer League
Northern Spirit v Perth (LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm - 9.30pm

English Premier League
Replay last weeks games
Fox Sports 2
11.55pm - 6am

Saturday January 15
Soccer Scene (Replay)
Fox Sports
12pm - 1pm

English Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
2am - 4am
(Sunday Morning)

Club World Championship Final
SBS TV
Eastern States 8.30am

Champions League Magazine Program
SBS TV
3.30pm - 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League Replay
SBS TV
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Sunday January 16
On the Ball
SBS TV
11.30am - 12.30pm

Serie A (LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
6.25am - 8.30am

English Premier League
Teams TBA (Replay)
Fox Sports 2
1pm - 3pm

National Soccer League Highlights
ABC TV
5pm - 7pm

National Soccer League
Sydney United v Sydney Olympic
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
6.30pm - 8.30pm

National Soccer League
Wollongong Wolves v Carlton
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
8.30pm - 10.30pm

English First Division
Manchester City v Fullham (LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
12am - 2am
(Monday Morning)

Monday January 17
English Premier League Program
SBS TV
7.30pm - 8.30pm

English Premier League
Teams TBA (Same Day Delay)
Fox Sports
6am - 8am

English Premier League
Teams TBA (Replay)
Fox Sports 2
12pm - 2pm

English Premier League Highlights
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Argentine Football: Copa de Ora
Independiente v Racing Club
Optus Vision (ESPN)
2pm - 4pm

Copa Cordoba - Final
9pm - 11pm
Optus Vision (ESPN)

Tuesday 18 January
Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm - 4.30pm





VASCO COACH NOT CELEBRATING YET

Vasco da Gama coach Antonio Lopes ordered his players last week to wear "the sandals of humility" after Saturday's 3-1 win over Manchester United left them on a brink of a place in the World Club Championship final.

"We have been successful so far because Vasco has been a humble team," said the police detective-turned-soccer coach.

"More than ever, it is necessary to wear the sandals of humility and not let the win over Manchester go to our heads."

Vasco need only a draw today (Tuesday) against Mexico's Necaxa to win group B and qualify for Friday's final — a result their euphoric fans believe to be a foregone conclusion.

Vasco will play the rest of the tournament without full-back Jorginho, who said he would probably be out of action for three weeks after pulling a thigh muscle during the second half.

The 35-year-old, one of five players signed in the month before the competition, said it was the second time an injury had kept him out of a world final.

He limped out of the World Cup final of 1994 — when Brazil beat Italy on penalties — after 15 minutes with another thigh muscle pull.

FIFA confirmed that Vasco's con-



Vasco players celebrate their first goal against Australia's South Melbourne.

troversial director Eurico Miranda was permitted to sit on the team bench, despite reports that he had broken the rules by doing so.

Miranda, famous in Brazil for running on to the pitch to contest

refereeing decisions, was in the dug-out and managed to keep his cool in the first half, when Vasco's attacks were repeatedly halted by offside decisions.

SCOTTISH FA CUP

Scottish Cup holders Rangers were given a tricky start to their defence of the trophy with an away tie at St Johnstone in the third round draw made last week.

It is the only tie between two Premier League sides and Rangers will recall that their last trip to McDiarmid Park, in April 1999, ended in a 3-1 defeat by the Perth side.

Rangers, however, did gain revenge by subsequently beating St Johnstone in last season's Scottish Cup semifinal and in the final of the League Cup.

Celtic, last season's defeated finalists who last won the trophy in 1995, face Inverness Caledonian Thistle at home, which gives the first division side a share in the receipts from a 50,000-plus attendance at Celtic Park.

But perhaps the biggest victim could be the bottom club in the premier league, Aberdeen, who take on first division leaders St Mirren.



Hearts v Stenhousemuir
St Mirren v Aberdeen
Albion or Dalbeattie Star v Partick Thistle
St Johnstone v Rangers
Celtic v Inverness C Thistle
Falkirk v Peterhead
Arbroath or Fraserburgh v Motherwell
Queen of the South v Livingston
Clyde v Raith Rovers
Stranraer v Berwick Rangers
Clydebank v Stirling
Hibernian v Dunfermline
Kilmarnock v Whitehill Welfare or Alloa
Greenock Morton v Brechin City or Annan Athletic
Dundee United v Airdrieonians
Dundee v Ayr

Matches to be played over weekend of January 29 and 30

SERIE A NEWS

ROMA IN REFEREE BRIBE SCANDAL

The Italian Football Federation has ordered all referees to return "inappropriate" Christmas gifts from clubs after AS Roma admitted they had given gold Rolex watches reportedly worth a total of \$13,300 to two match officials.

La Gazzetta dello Sport said last week that the Serie A club had also given less precious Rolex watches to 37 other referees.

Roma issued a statement justifying their actions and claiming they were not the only club to make Christmas gifts to referees.

Italian Football Federation president Luciano Nizzola ordered referees to give back presents which they felt were inappropriate.

The statement from Roma said: "AS Roma notes that, considering this was a gesture of normal courtesy that was never questioned in previous years... it seems particularly unpleasant that the supposed scandal was exposed a month after the gifts were sent and in particular on the very eve of the Milan-Roma match.

"Thus, AS Roma is neither surprised nor in the least affected by the revelations since they refer to an episode of absolute and well-documented transparency," it added.

PERUGIA KEEPER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COCAINE

Angelo Pagotto, goalkeeper of Italian league club Perugia, has tested positive for cocaine, the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) said last week.

It said in a statement that a second sample Pagotto gave after a Serie A match between Perugia and Fiorentina last November confirmed the result of an earlier test.

"The findings have been passed to CONI's anti-doping commission. It will then be up to the Football Federation and the Football League to impose the relevant punishment," a CONI spokesman said.

Pagotto said he was innocent despite the result of the counter-analysis carried out at an International Olympic Committee laboratory in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"I'm clean and I'm calm," he said. "I'm very disappointed about the result...I still can't believe it and now I'll try to work out, with the help of my lawyer, exactly what has happened."

Pagotto and Japanese team mate Hidetoshi Nakata were given dope tests after the November 21 match. Perugia acknowledged in December that one of them had tested positive.

AFRICAN MOVES FROM PALMA TO PARMA

Real Mallorca's Cameroon international Lauren Bisan-Etame Mayer is set to join Parma at the end of the season, the player's agent said last week.

Antonio Gonzalez, Lauren's representative, said there was an agreement between the player and Parma and that officials from the Italian club would arrive in Spain next week to complete the signing.

Parma were prepared to pay the \$12.39 million buy-out clause in the player's contract, meaning Mallorca's agreement would not be required, Gonzalez said.

Lauren, part of Cameroon's World Cup squad at France 98, also holds a Spanish passport.



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Leeds United	21	14	2	5	35	24	44
2. Manchester United	19	13	4	2	50	25	43
3. Arsenal	21	12	4	5	37	21	40
4. Sunderland	21	11	5	5	35	26	38
5. Liverpool	21	11	4	6	31	18	37
6. Tottenham Hotspur	20	10	4	6	32	23	34
7. Chelsea	20	9	5	6	29	21	32
8. Leicester City	21	9	3	9	30	30	30
9. Everton	21	7	8	6	35	30	29
10. Aston Villa	21	8	5	8	21	22	29
11. West Ham United	20	7	7	6	24	23	28
12. Middlesbrough	19	8	3	8	23	26	27
13. Coventry City	20	6	7	7	28	24	25
14. Wimbledon	21	5	10	6	32	35	25
15. Newcastle	21	6	6	9	34	37	24
16. Southampton	20	5	5	10	24	32	20
17. Derby County	21	5	4	12	19	32	19
18. Bradford City	21	4	6	11	16	31	18
19. Watford	21	4	2	15	17	44	14
20. Sheffield Wednesday	20	2	4	14	17	46	10

LEADING SCORERS

18 - Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
14 - Alan Shearer (Newcastle United)
13 - Andy Cole (Manchester United)
11 - Michael Bridges (Leeds United), Dwight Yorke (Manchester United)
9 - Dion Dublin (Aston Villa), Steffen Iversen (Tottenham Hotspur), Kevin Campbell (Everton), Tony Cottee (Leicester City), Paolo Di Canio (West Ham United), Tore Andre Flo (Chelsea), Robbie Keane (Coventry City)
8 - John Hartson (Wimbledon)
7 - Muzzy Izzet (Leicester City), Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal), Marians Pahars (Southampton), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Brian Deane (Middlesbrough), Michael Owen (Liverpool), Tim Sherwood (Tottenham Hotspur), Carl Cort (Wimbledon)
6 - Rory Delap (Derby County), Hamilton Ricard (Middlesbrough), Titi Camara (Liverpool), Francis Jeffers (Everton), Gary McAllister (Coventry City), Davor Suker (Arsenal), Marcus Gayle (Wimbledon).

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Man City	26	16	4	6	40	21	52
2. Charlton	25	15	5	5	45	26	50
3. Ipswich	26	14	7	5	43	27	49
4. Barnsley	26	15	4	7	52	38	49
5. Huddersfield	26	14	5	7	44	27	47
6. Stockport	26	11	7	8	32	35	40
7. QPR	26	10	9	7	35	30	39
8. Fulham	26	9	12	5	25	20	39
9. Norwich	26	10	8	8	27	25	38
10. Blackburn	25	9	10	6	32	25	37
11. Wolverhampton	25	9	9	7	29	25	36
12. Birmingham	25	9	8	8	34	28	35
13. Tranmere	26	10	5	11	37	37	35
14. Bolton	25	8	8	9	33	30	32
15. Crystal Palace	26	8	8	10	36	41	32
16. Sheff Utd	26	8	7	11	33	41	31
17. Nottm Forest	26	7	7	12	26	32	28
18. Crewe	26	7	7	12	25	33	28
19. West Brom	26	5	12	9	24	32	27
20. Grimsby	26	7	6	13	27	45	27
21. Port Vale	25	5	8	12	28	36	23
22. Portsmouth	26	5	8	13	28	41	23
23. Walsall	26	5	7	14	26	42	22
24. Swindon	26	3	9	14	18	42	18

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Wigan	25	15	9	1	47	21	54
2. Preston	24	15	7	2	42	19	52
3. Bristol Rovers	25	15	5	5	36	20	50
4. Millwall	26	13	8	5	41	28	47
5. Stoke	25	12	8	5	36	22	44
6. Burnley	24	12	7	5	33	21	43
7. Notts County	26	12	7	7	38	27	43
8. Gillingham	23	12	6	5	42	28	42
9. Brentford	26	10	7	9	36	34	37
10. Bournemouth	26	10	5	11	36	37	35
11. Wycombe	25	8	9	8	31	31	33
12. Luton	25	9	6	10	31	34	33

13. Bury	23	7	10	6	37	31	31
14. Oldham	25	8	7	10	26	29	31
15. Bristol City	25	6	12	7	28	29	30
16. Colchester	25	6	7	12	32	51	25
17. Cardiff	25	5	9	11	24	34	24
18. Oxford	24	6	6	12	23	33	24
19. Scunthorpe	24	6	6	12	24	40	24
20. Wrexham	24	4	10	10	21	36	22
21. Reading	24	4	9	11	28	43	21
22. Blackpool	25	3	9	13	24	43	18
23. Chesterfield	24	3	8	13	14	28	17
24. Cambridge	24	3	7	14	30	41	16

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Swansea	26	15	5	6	29	17	50
2. Barnet	26	14	7	5	37	26	49
3. Rotherham	26	14	5	7	39	19	47
4. Darlington	25	13	7	5	34	17	46
5. Hartlepool	26	13	3	10	36	28	42
6. Northampton	26	12	6	8	31	24	42
7. Halifax	26	12	5	9	30	27	41
8. Torquay	25	11	6	8	35	29	39
9. Rochdale	25	11	6	8	25	19	39
10. Macclesfield	26	11	6	9	38	35	39
11. Plymouth	24	10	8	6	33	27	38
12. Peterborough	24	11	5	8	35	34	38
13. Cheltenham	25	10	5	10	25	24	35
14. Brighton	25	9	7	9	38	31	34
15. Southend	26	9	6	11	34	38	33
16. Mansfield	24	9	5	10	32	35	32
17. Hull City	25	8	7	10	24	25	31
18. Lincoln	24	8	7	9	35	37	31
19. Exeter	25	7	5	13	29	39	26
20. York	24	6	7	11	22	32	25
21. Shrewsbury	26	6	5	15	23	41	23
22. Carlisle	26	5	7	14	26	44	22
23. Leyton Orient	25	5	6	14	22	34	21
24. Chester	26	4	4	18	23	53	16

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	17	14	2	1	45	14	44
2. Celtic	18	13	1	4	53	16	40
3. Dundee Utd	19	9	3	7	25	29	30
4. Motherwell	17	7	6	4	28	30	27
5. Hibernian	20	6	7	7	32	35	25
6. Hearts	18	5	5	8	26	28	20
7. St Johnstone	18	5	5	8	18	23	20
8. Dundee	17	6	1	10	21	28	19
9. Kilmarnock	18	2	7	9	18	28	13
10. Aberdeen	18	3	3	12	20	55	12

SCOTTISH DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. St Mirren	21	14	5	2	51	24	47
2. Dunfermline	21	11	7	3	37	20	40
3. Falkirk	22	11	4	7	39	31	37
4. Livingston	21	10	6	5	37	28	36
5. Raith	20	10	5	5	38	27	35
6. Inverness CT	22	7	7	8	35	34	28
7. Ayr	22	7	5	10	26	30	26
8. Airdrie	22	5	6	11	17	39	21
9. G Morton	22	5	5	12	30	42	20
10. Clydebank	21	0	4	17	13	48	4

SCOTTISH DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Clyde	19	9	6	4	26	15	33
2. Alloa	19	7	10	2	24	19	31
3. Stranraer	20	6	10	4	28	21	28
4. Ross County	17	8	4	5	19	15	28
5. Arbroath	20	7	7	6	30	30	28
6. Stirling	20	7	4	9	38	35	25
7. Stenhousemuir	19	7	4	8	24	24	25
8. Partick	20	6	6	8	17	21	24
9. Hamilton	19	4	7	8	20	27	19
10. Queen of South	19	4	4	11	21	40	16

ITALIAN SERIE A

Bari 3 Venezia 0, Cagliari 3 Piacenza 0, Fiorentina 2 Inter Milan 1, Lazio 3 Bologna 1, Milan 2 AS Roma 2, Parma 1 Juventus 1, Perugia 0 Udinese 5, Torino 1 Lecce 2, Verona 1 Reggina 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Lazio	16	10	4	2	33	16	34
2. Juventus	16	9	6	1	19	8	33

3. Parma	16	9	4	3	29	18	31
4. AS Roma	16	8	5	3	31	17	29
5. AC Milan	16	7	7	2	32	21	28
6. Inter Milan	16	8	2	6	30	14	26
7. Bari	16	6	5	5	21	20	23
8. Udinese	16	6	4	6	24	23	22
9. Fiorentina	16	5	7	4	17	18	22
10. Lecce	16	6	4	6	13	22	22
11. Bologna	16	5	5	6	13	16	20
12. Perugia	16	6	2	8	16	28	20
13. Reggina	16	3	7	6	18	25	16
14. Verona	16	4	5	7	12	21	16
15. Torino	16	3	5	8	12	21	14
16. Venezia	16	3	3	10	11	22	12
17. Piacenza	16	2	5	9	9	20	11
18. Cagliari	16	1	7	8	15	26	10

LEADING SCORERS

12 - Hernan Crespo (Parma)
10 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
9 - Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma)
8 - Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina), Christian Vieri (Inter Milan), Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus), Marcelo Salas (Lazio), Cristiano Lucarelli (Lecce), Oliver Bierhoff (AC Milan), Mohamed Kallon (Reggina)
7 - Marco Delvecchio (AS Roma)
6 - Patrick Mboma (Cagliari), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese), Filippo Maniero (Venezia)
5 - Giuseppe Signori (Bologna), Sebastian Veron (Lazio), Adailton (Verona)
4 - Yksel Osmanovski (Bari), Alvaro Recoba, Ronaldo, Ivan Zamorano (Inter), George Weah (Milan), Marco Di Vaio (Parma), Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Marco Ferrante (Torino)
3 - Daniel Andersson, Duccio Innocenti (Bari), Kennet Andersson (Bologna), Daniele Berretta (Cagliari), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Alen Boksic, Simone Inzaghi, Sinisa Mihajlovic and Dejan Stankovic (Lazio), Alain Boghossian (Parma), Nicola Amoruso, Renato Olive (Perugia), Arturo Di Napoli, David Dionigi (Piacenza), Andrea Pirlo (Reggina), Stefano Fiore, Paolo Poggi, Andrea Sottit (Udinese), Fabian Valtolina (Venezia)

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Alaves 1 Athletic Bilbao 2, Atletico Madrid 1 Real Mallorca 0, Real Betis 1 Numancia 2, Celta Vigo 0 Barcelona 2, Racing Santander 2 Malaga 3, Rayo Vallecano 2 Sevilla 0, Real Sociedad 0 Real Oviedo 0, Real Zaragoza 4 Valencia 2. Played on Saturday: Espanyol 0 Deportivo Coruna 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Deportivo Coruna	19	11	4	4	33	22	37
2. Real Zaragoza	19	9	7	3	36	20	34
3. Barcelona	19	10	3	6	41	27	33
4. Athletic Bilbao	19	7	8	4	29	28	29
5. Rayo Vallecano	19	9	2	8	28	27	29
6. Celta Vigo	19	9	2	8	25	24	29
7. Numancia	19	7	6	6	28	31	27
8. Valencia	19	7	5	7	26	21	26
9. Real Mallorca	19	7	5	7	25	24	26
10. Alaves	19	7	5	7	22	23	26
11. Malaga	19	6	6	7	31	31	24
12. Real Madrid	17	5	8	4	29	29	23
13. Espanyol	19	6	5	8	29	29	23
14. Atletico Madrid	19	7	2	10	31	33	23
15. Real Betis	18	7	2	9	17	29	23
16. Racing Santander	19	5	7	7	31	30	22
17. Valladolid	18	5	6	7	16	23	21
18. Real Oviedo	19	5	6	8	18	29	21
19. Real Sociedad	19	4	7	8	20	24	20
20. Sevilla	19	3	7	9	21	32	16

LEADING SCORERS

20 - Salva Ballesta (Racing Santander)
18 - Savo Milosevic (Real Zaragoza)
17 - Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Atletico Madrid)
15 - Catanha (Malaga)
10 - Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid)
9 - Diego Tristan (Real Mallorca), Roy Makaay (Deportivo Coruna)
8 - Ruben Navarro (Numancia), Dani Garcia (Barcelona), Juan Carlos Gomez (Sevilla), Rivaldo (Barcelona)
7 - Djalmirha (Deportivo Coruna), Victor Fernandez (Valladolid), Pauleta Resendes (Deportivo Coruna), Luis Figo (Barcelona), Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao), Gaizka Mendieta (Valencia)

6 - Valery Karpin (Celta Vigo), Finidi George (Real Betis), Rodrigo Fabri (Valladolid), Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid), Alfonso Perez (Real Betis), Bolo Perez (Rayo Vallecano), Juanele Castano (Real Zaragoza)
5 - Juan Sanchez (Valencia), Dely Valdes (Real Oviedo), Miguel Angel Benitez (Espanyol), Santi Ezquerro (Athletic Bilbao), Vassilis Tsartas (Sevilla), Jovan Stankovic (Real Mallorca), Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Manuel Canabal (Rayo Vallecano), Robert Losada (Real Oviedo), Julio Salinas (Alaves)

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP

Results of French League Cup first round matches played on Sunday (Roman numerals in parentheses denote non-first division club):

St Etienne 3 Nantes 1, Guingamp (II) 1 Montpellier 3, Nice (II) 0 Sedan

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	Total							Home							Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	15	9	3	3	26	14	30	7	3	3	1	11	7		8	6	0	2	15	7	
PERTH GLORY	15	8	4	3	29	17	28	8	5	2	1	19	9		7	3	2	2	10	8	
BRISBANE STRIKERS	15	8	4	3	25	13	28	8	4	3	1	18	8		7	4	1	2	7	5	
CARLTON	14	7	5	2	27	14	26	8	4	3	1	15	8		6	3	2	1	12	6	
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	15	7	5	3	29	22	26	7	5	0	2	15	10		8	2	5	1	14	12	
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	15	7	5	3	22	19	26	8	4	3	1	15	12		7	3	2	2	7	7	
MARCONI STALLIONS	14	7	2	5	19	18	23	6	4	0	2	7	7		8	3	2	3	12	11	
AUCKLAND KINGZ	15	5	5	5	26	27	20	7	2	3	2	13	15		8	3	2	3	13	12	
NORTHERN SPIRIT	15	6	1	8	15	21	19	7	3	0	4	7	10		8	3	1	4	8	11	
SOUTH MELBOURNE	14	5	3	6	22	21	18	7	4	2	1	16	7		7	1	1	5	6	14	
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	15	4	5	6	15	17	17	7	3	2	2	9	7		8	1	3	4	6	10	
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	15	4	5	6	10	15	17	7	2	2	3	5	6		8	2	3	3	5	9	
PARRAMATTA POWER	14	4	3	7	23	26	15	8	2	3	3	11	11		6	2	0	4	12	15	
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	15	4	1	10	14	31	13	7	3	0	4	6	7		8	1	1	6	8	24	
CANBERRA COSMOS	15	3	2	10	17	29	11	8	2	1	5	10	11		7	1	1	5	7	18	
SYDNEY UNITED	15	2	3	10	8	23	9	8	2	1	5	5	10		7	0	2	5	3	13	

ROUND 14

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

(Cardozo 76)

PERTH GLORY

(Boutsianis 33)

Venue: North Harbour Stadium Crowd: 8,134 Referee: M Breeze

Teams: Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Zoricich, Juric, Baillie, Emerton, Phillips, Mendez (Sinozic 93), Kohler (Kalantzis 46), Wilson, Cardozo, Tome (N Carle 72).

Perth Glory: Petkovic, Trajkovski (Afkos 79), Junior, Naven, Hamwell, Ergic, Halpin, Boutsianis (Buljubasic 88), Miller, Edwards, Despotovski.

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ROUND 14

AUCKLAND KINGZ

(Silva 31, de Jong 50, Bunce 68)

CANBERRA COSMOS

(Musitano 83)

Venue: North Harbour Stadium Crowd: N/A Referee: M Shield
Cautions: James (CC) 17, Burt (CC) 42, Ngata (AK) 52, Polak (CC) 74, de Jong (AK) 81, Bunce (AK) 91. Red Card: Jones (AK) 71.

Teams: Auckland Kingz: Batty, Bunce, Perry, Jackson, de Jong, Mennillo (Erick 63), Middleby (Osman 73), Ngata, Vicelich, Jones, Silva (Riddle 63).

Canberra Cosmos: Konstantinou, Popovich, Burt, Purdue, Polak, Watkins, Hamilton, James, Kolpak, Hooker, Roberts (Musitano 73).

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NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

(Moore 19, McManus 70, Harper 72 pen)

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

(Mendez 34, Macallister 82)

Venue: Breakers Stadium Crowd: 6,907 Referee: M Breeze
Cautions: Mendez (SO) 38, Kalantzis (SO) 38, Zoricich (SO) 68, Juric (SO) 70.

Red Card: Dodd (NB) 42

Teams: Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts (Trpceviski 58), McManus, Sprod, Dodd, Wilson (Smith 81), Buonavoglia (Tancheski 66), Wiecezorek, Harper, Moore.

Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Zoricich, Baillie, Juric, Phillips (Kohler 75), Cardozo, Kalantzis (Carle 73), Mendez, Wilson, Tome (Macallister 70), Zorbas.

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ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

(Kemp 53)

CANBERRA COSMOS

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium Crowd: 4,367 Referee: E Lennie
Cautions: Kemp (ACF) 45, Gonzales (CC), Burt (CC) 63, Hassell (ACF) 91.

Teams: Adelaide City Force: Knezevic, Tobin, Talladira (Hornijk 8), Kemp, Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Costanzo, Hassell, Pelosi, Kim.

Canberra Cosmos: Konstantinou, Milin (Prenzoski 77), Popovich, Burt, Purdue (Zwangobani 80), Polak (Conlon 83), Winnie, Watkins, Hamilton, Kolpak, Gonzalez.

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NORTHERN SPIRIT

(Cunico 16, Seal 47, Langdon 67)

SYDNEY UNITED

Venue: North Sydney Oval Crowd: 11,772 Referee: S Micallef

Cautions: Moric (SU) 18, Seal (NS) 47.

Teams: Northern Spirit: Perosh, Langdon (Cantanzaro 69), Bingley, Casserley, Slater, Perinich, Seal (Snyder 78), Crannicy, Bilokapic, Sobczyk (Moss 83).

Sydney United: Tolios, Jurilj, Arrarte, A Moric (Jerman 45), Pondebjak, Maric, Rastall, Genc, J Moric (Saric 70), Bosevski (Bozinovski 59), Palapanis.

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CARLTON SC

(Marth 90)

AUCKLAND KINGZ

(Deans 11og)

Venue: Olympic Park Crowd: 3,034 Referee: G Connolly

Cautions: Vicelich (FK) 53, Perry (FK) 59, Jackson (FK) 83.

Teams: Carlton SC: Anastasiadis, Deans, Douglas, Marth, Slater, Atkinson, Lapsansky, Thompson (Moreira 54), Conroy (Markovski 54), Anthopoulos (Packer 67), Terminello.

Auckland Kingz: Batty, Bunce, Perry, Stergiopoulos, Jackson, Mennillo (Silva 66), Middleby, Ngata, Osmani, Vicelich, Riddle (Erick 74).

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BRISBANE STRIKERS

(Harris 45, Foster 48 & 55, Grierson 51)

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Venue: Suncorp Stadium Crowd: 2,972 Referee: M Shields
Cautions: Ditton (BS) 17, Harris (BS) 21, Foster (BS) 23, Kiratzoglou (MK) 23, Magdic (MK) 68.

Teams: Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Stefanutto, Davidson (Bell 72), Ditton (Srhaj 60), Foster, Hews, McLaren, North, Grierson, Harris (Baldwin 64).

Melbourne Knights: Acevski, Kovacevic, Silic, Kelic, Abbas (Magdic 57m), Vukadin, Rajner (Trupkovic 64m), Vassallo, Kiratzoglou, Reda (Urlovic 57m), Cervinski.

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PERTH GLORY

(Ergic 15)

GIPPSLAND FALCONS

Venue: Perth Oval Crowd: 12,199 Referee: C Diomis

Cautions: Nilo (GF) 48, Vargs (GF) 68, Durakovic (GF) 76, Boutsianis (PG) 78, Gotis (GF) 86.

Teams: Perth Glory: Petkovic, Trajkovski, Miller (Afkos 62), Naven, Hamwell, Thorp, Junior (Buljubasic 89), Halpin, Despotovski (Buljan 68), Boutsianis, Ergic.

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjovic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, MacNicol, Vargas (Robertson 85), Bell, Hutchinson (Savage 72), Kakos, Marcina (Katz 73), Nilo.

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

P Foster	(Brisbane Strikers)	11
M Curcija	(Sth Melbourne)	9
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	9
C Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	8
S Petrovski	(Wollongong Wolves)	8
J Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	7
I Kelic	(Melbourne Knights)	7
E Masi	(Wollongong Wolves)	7
D Mori	(Adelaide City Force)	7
P Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	6
B Despotovski	(Perth Glory)	6
J Griffiths	(Parramatta Power)	6

ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR

(PROGRESSIVE POINTS)

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ROUND SIXTEEN

Friday 14 January: Northern Spirit v Perth Glory North Sydney Oval 7.30pm. Saturday 15 January: Gippsland Falcons v Brisbane Strikers Falcons Stadium 7.30pm.

Sunday 16 January: Wollongong Wolves v Carlton SC Brandon Park 5pm. Sydney United v Sydney Olympic Sydney United Sports Centre 6pm. Marconi Stallions v Canberra Cosmos Marconi Stadium 6pm. Melbourne Knights v Adelaide City Force Knights Stadium 6pm.

NOTE:

- Newcastle Breakers v South Melbourne Postponed until February 2 Breakers Stadium.
- Auckland Kingz v Parramatta Power Postponed TBA North Harbour Stadium (all times provided are local times)